Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest, what's your level of confidence that rebates and refunds will be issued before the year ends?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Last Flight

As the miles melted between Atlantis and the space station, the emotions grew.

NATION...Page 14

Train Wreck

Rescue workers pull more bodies from the mangled wreckage of a passenger train.

ASIA...Page 15

Good Kids

If the cast of "Harry Potter" receives report cards, all of them would earn "plays well with others."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Zoning administrator Wyatt terminated. PAGE 2
PSS in historic conference call with USDOE's Duncan. PAGE 5

Footing the bill for officials' car leases

» 1 SUV rental for Fitial
» 16 lawmakers with taxpayer-funded vehicle leases

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Executive Branch rents a sports utility vehicle for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial because of his back pain, even as more names were added yesterday to the list of lawmakers with taxpayer-paid vehicle leases of $400 to $700 a month and gasoline expenses.

At least half or 16 of the 29 members of the 17th Legislature are leasing cars, SUVs or trucks using their operational account,

See FOOTING on Page 4

IN SECOND QUARTER OF 2011

Froilan had most number of absences

» 21 of 29 lawmakers have perfect attendance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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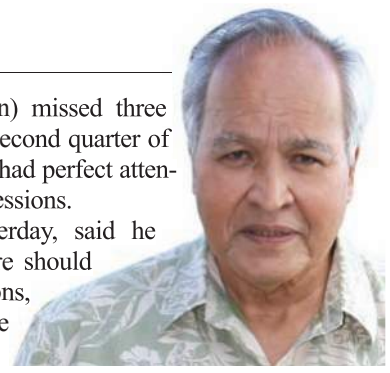
REPORTER



Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) missed three of six special sessions during the second quarter of 2011, even as 21 of 29 lawmakers had perfect attendances in both House and Senate sessions.

Tenorio, in an interview yesterday, said he doesn't believe that the Legislature should be conducting a lot of special sessions, unless the matters to be tackled are

See FROILAN on Page 4

Garrison quits

» Cites irreconcilable differences with PSS leadership

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison during an interview yesterday at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, where he attended the Public School System's principals' meeting. Garrison resigned from his position due to irreconcilable differences with the PSS leadership.

Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison has resigned from the Public School System, effective Sept. 1, due to what he described as "irreconcilable differences" with Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

Garrison's departure was announced yesterday by Sablan during a principals' meeting at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. The announcement surprised attendees, including Garrison who didn't expect Sablan to announce his resignation yesterday.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting that Garrison did not cite any reason for his resignation. She said she received a formal resignation letter from him and that she accepted it.

Garrison will be replaced by Cherlyn Cabrera.

Garrison told *Saipan Tribune* that in a one-on-one meeting with Sablan two weeks ago, he raised specific concerns, majority of which relate to providing equity to schools.

"This wasn't really about salary, but more on a compensation program for schools with larger sizes. If you're a principal with 75 students and you're making the same amount of money with principals with over 1,400 students, there's a rate disparity. Equity is one reason why many people have left the system. If the commissioner really wanted to make it happen, she can do it," he said.

"Fair share" at schools, he added, is important for the school system to work.

Dissatisfied with what he described

See GARRISON on Page 4

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, center, glances at a list of activities lined up for the 2011 Youth Leadership Month that includes a summer sports camp, a summer day camp and the 30th anniversary of the Division of Youth Services during a proclamation signing yesterday in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill. Looking on are House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), left, 7-year-old Alysonred Camacho, front row right, 13-year-old Cleah San Nicolas and 17-year-old John Cenir, standing right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story and more photos on Page 6

Local

Zoning administrator Wyatt terminated

Zoning Office administrator Douglas T. Wyatt has been terminated.

The Zoning board terminated Wyatt's services on July 8, 2011, "without cause" as per Section 15(B)(1) of his contract, in accordance with the Excepted Service Personnel Regulations.

In a statement yesterday, the Zoning board said it appreciates Wyatt's professional performance over the last year.

"At this time, the Zoning board believes that it is in the best interests of the Zoning Office and the residents of Saipan to discontinue the services of Wyatt," the statement adds.

Wyatt

The board has designated Therese Ogumoro as the acting Zoning administrator. Ogumoro has worked for the Zoning Office for more than four years and has served as acting administrator on two previous occasions.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Zoning officials yesterday but all of them referred to the prepared statement.

That statement said the board remains committed to good planning and proper zoning for the island of Saipan and knows that Ogumoro will continue the good work of prior Zoning administrators.

"We expect to see further progress with the improvements to and implementation of the Saipan Zoning Law under Ms. Ogumoro," said board chair Diego Blanco. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Six principals reassigned to new schools in revamp

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Six public schools will have new principals in the 2012 school year after Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan announced a reshuffling of school heads during the principals' meeting at Laolao Bay Golf Resort yesterday.

Speaking before more than 20 school administrators and education officials, Sablan named Jessica Barcinas-Taylor as the new principal for Tanapag Elementary School, replacing Frances Ulloa who is on medical leave.

Barcinas-Taylor will be leaving her post as coordinator of the PSS Career Technical Education Program to head the Tanapag school.

Yvonne Pangelinan has been assigned to San Vicente Elementary School effective July 18 as replacement for Joaquina Salas, who retired after 30 years of public service. Pangelinan has been the principal of Garapan Elementary School for more than seven years.

At Garapan Elementary School, vice principal Paulette Sablan will become the school's interim principal effective immediately.

James Sablan, currently vice principal of Oleai Elementary School, will become the school principal for San Antonio Elementary School, while Martin Dalsaso, the interim principal of San Antonio, will be moving to Marianas High School as one of its vice principals.

At Dr. Rita Inos Hocog Junior High School on Rota, vice principal Annette Calvo will become its interim principal. She replaces Maria Quitugua, who will assume the position of PSS Assessment Program coordinator.

Marianas High School will also have a new principal after Craig Garrison tendered his resignation. Cherlyn Cabrera, the current vice principal, was named interim replacement for Garrison.

After the closed-door meeting, Board of Education chair Marylou Ada and board member Herman T. Guerrero expressed their full support to the commissioner. The two also provided words of encouragement for all school administrators to continue their good performances and recognized their notable accomplishments during the last school year.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, center, is flanked by Board of Education chair Marylou Ada and board member Herman T. Guerrero during an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. The commissioner, in a closed-door meeting with the school principals announced the reshuffle of some school administrators for the new school year.

Commissioner Sablan said that PSS ended the school year on a high note. She highlighted the recent SAT-10 results, which showed a growth of 3 to 9 percentile.

Sablan said all the re-assigned principals fully meet BOE's highly qualified requirements and that many have applied for the positions since last school year.

"These are individuals who met the requirements of the board and we're very pleased that we are able to make the appointments due to capacity in the administrative area," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

'Surprised'

The revamp surprised many school administrators yesterday.

Barcinas-Taylor and James Sablan admitted that they both applied for the posts but didn't know until after the announcement that they've been accepted. They vowed to perform their best for student learning.

Part of their immediate plans is to sit down with their respective school teams and get to know them first. The two said understanding school data, culture, and concerns are key to effective leadership.

Yvonne Pangelinan, the new principal for San Vicente, admitted that she has yet to process her feelings about the reassignment. She said she is focusing now in preparing Garapan for a smooth transition.

Pangelinan said among her immediate plans at San Vicente is to review its staffing pattern and prepare the school for the new school year.

When asked if the decision was expected, Pangelinan said: "I think if you work for PSS, you understand that you are serving the students and we are a large system. Everybody must be prepared to serve in the capacity that they are called for," she added.

Man hits girlfriend with soju bottle

A woman was injured when her intoxicated boyfriend allegedly hit her mouth with a soju bottle during a drinking session outside a barracks in Chalan Kanoa Monday night.

The victim's upper lip was bleeding and swollen when a police officer arrived at the scene, according to a police report.

The boyfriend, 42-year-old Charles S. Rechesengel, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. Bail was initially set at $5,250 cash.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer responded to a barracks in Chalan Kanoa District 3 on Tuesday, July 5, at 12:44am, after receiving a call about a domestic disturbance.

Pangelinan said the victim, who called the police, told the officer that her boyfriend, Rechesengel, hit her mouth with a soju bottle.

The victim stated that Rechesengel and his friends had been drinking beer outside the barracks for the Liberation Day celebration.

The victim and Rechesengel later had an argument that escalated to the suspect allegedly hitting his girlfriend on the mouth with a soju bottle he was holding. He then began cursing her, prompting her to walk away and call the police.

The suspect left the area, but other responding police officers later spotted him near the barracks and arrested him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

MVA Offers Members Japan Web Exposure

Members of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) have a new avenue to directly reach potential customers in Japan with the launch of a new blog page on the MVA Japan website.

The blog page offers optional tour operators, hotels, dive shops, souvenir shops and other members direct access to travelers. The grass roots access provides travelers with details and updated information on local members in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The page is promoted with a web banner on the MVA's Japanese-language site, where is it linked, and can also be viewed at http://japan.mymarianas.com/japanese/blog/index.html.

Membership in the Marianas Visitors Authority is open to individuals, companies, and organizations. The annual rate of $100 and benefits include promotional opportunities, in-depth industry statistics, voting rights, and others. To register, contact the MVA at 670.664.3210.

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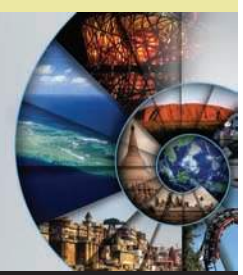
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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Inos: New law will not compromise NMC's autonomy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos says improving Northern Marianas College's financial oversight will not compromise the institution's autonomy, despite concerns about a bill's impacts on accreditation, among other things.

Inos gave this assurance when he signed into law Saturday a bill that he says will maintain NMC's fiscal stability for students' well-being and accreditation reasons.

"The administration has reviewed and taken into consideration the Northern Marianas College's resolution and comments as submitted, regarding infringement on NMC's autonomy. However, thorough review of this legislation indicates that passage of this measure will not compromise the autonomy of NMC," Inos said in his message to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

House Bill 17-93, Senate Substitute 1 is now Public Law 17-47.

The bill amends sections of the Post Secondary Act of 1984, as amended, to modify the financial duties of the Board of Regents.

It requires the board, for example, to ensure that all gifts, grants, donations, bequests, endowments, educational tax credits or other contributions, their management and the expenditures of the income, and a detailed financial statement of suitable books of account of all trust funds are included in the annual financial report submitted to the governor and the Legislature.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of the bill, said yesterday he's happy that his work has come to fruition, and thanked Inos for understanding the need to improve NMC's financial oversight.

"I hope that NMC will follow this new law to better manage the college's finances," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMC officials had opposed the bill, saying that financial reporting requirements are already covered by existing laws and college policies that only need to be properly enforced, and do not need new legislation.

Inos said Article 10 Section 8 of the NMI Constitution mandates the Department of Finance to regulate and control expenditure of public funds to ensure monies are expended for public purposes.

He said since NMC receives funds annually through the appropriation process, the Department of Finance must ensure all expenditure of public funds, including NMC's expenditures, are for public purposes.

"This cannot be considered an infringement on NMC's autonomy as the Department of Finance must perform its constitutionality mandated duties," Inos said.

The acting governor said with respect to reporting requirement on public funds, NMC is not the sole instrumentality that is required to submit an annual financial report to the governor and the Legislature.

"In fact, all government departments, agencies, instrumentalities that receive public funds are required to report its expenditures annually. It makes for sound public policy," he added.

Search entering 7th week; still no changes

No significant development happened over the weekend and yesterday in connection with the search for missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk.

"No changes. Search is ongoing," acting press secretary Teresa Kim told *Saipan Tribune* in an email.

The Department of Public Safety is mum whether it did a search operation over the weekend.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said he is not aware of any searches done by DPS over the weekend and yesterday. He said he will check with DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas for any development.

The mysterious disappearance of the Luhk sisters is entering its 7th week tomorrow, Wednesday.

Last week, DPS officers and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel searched selected sewer manholes on the island. DPS also conducted underwater and on-ground searches along the cliff lines at Coral Ocean Point and Agingan Point last week.

FBI special agent Tom Simon has stated that the FBI remains committed to the investigation.

"As long as there are leads to be covered, we will be there with the police, side by side, working toward a resolution of this disturbing case," said the Honolulu-based special agent.

A $50,000 cash reward has been put up for information on the whereabouts of 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina. The girls were reportedly last seen near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo on May 25. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Public hearing today on Article 12 initiatives

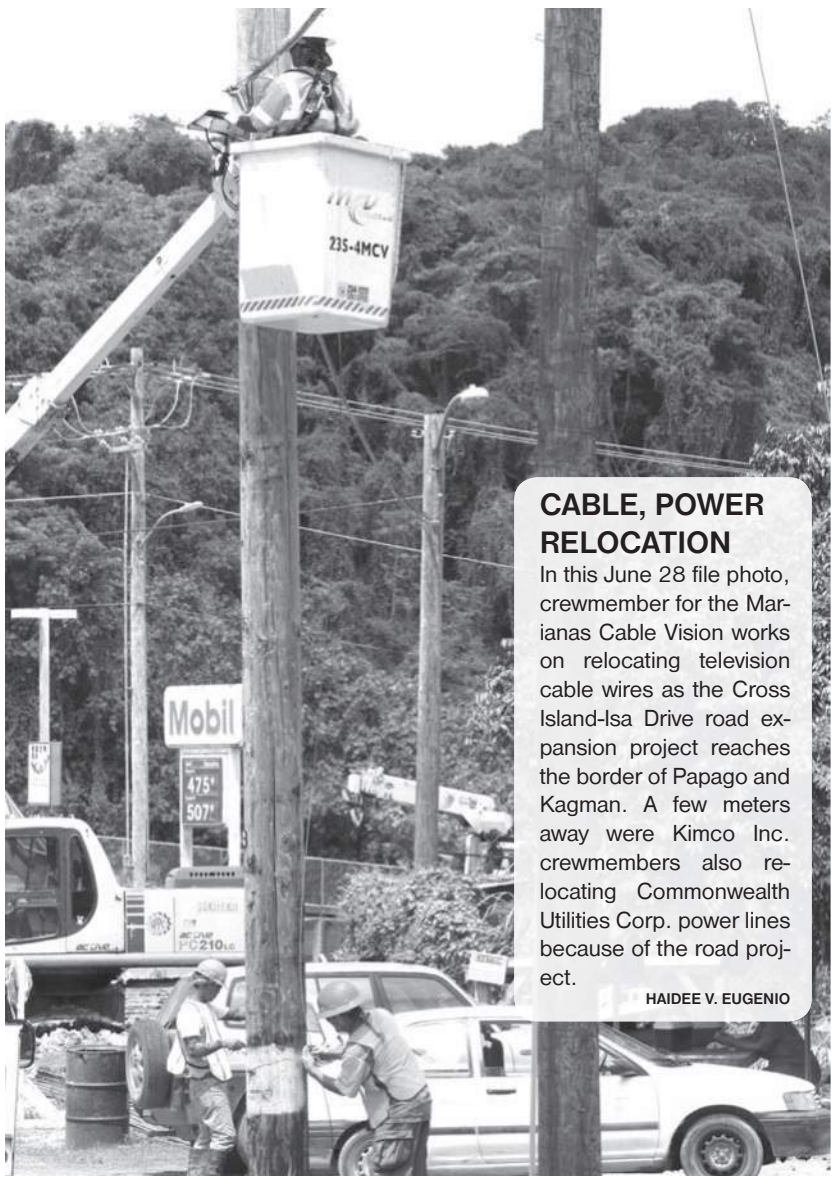
The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs will be holding a public hearing today, July 12, 2011, on two initiatives relating to Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

The public hearing, to be held at 6pm at the Kagman Community Center, will take up:

■ Senate Legislative Initiative 17-09: "To propose constitutional amendments to Article XII Section(s) 3, 4, and 5 of the CNMI Constitution to extend the term of leasehold estates, to change the definition of persons of the Northern Marianas Descent, and to change the definition of corporations permitting minority interests by persons not of Northern Marianas Descent."

■ Senate Legislative Initiative 17-10**:** "To propose a constitutional amendment for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to vote to continue, or repeal, Article XII."

Written comments may be submitted to the office of Sen. Ralph Dlg. Torres on Capital Hill, Saipan, prior to the public hearing. Oral testimony may be presented during the public hearing. If you wish to present oral testimony, inform Torres' office not later than 24 hours prior to the public hearing. ***(PR)***



CABLE, POWER RELOCATION

In this June 28 file photo, crewmember for the Marianas Cable Vision works on relocating television cable wires as the Cross Island-Isa Drive road expansion project reaches the border of Papago and Kagman. A few meters away were Kimco Inc. crewmembers also relocating Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power lines because of the road project.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

UOG and UMASS-Boston team up for Pacific VIP master's degree program

MANGILAO, Guam—The University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service, or Guam CEDDERS, in partnership with University of Massachusetts – Boston, started the summer semester for the four-year Pacific Vision Instruction Program (Pacific VIP) on June 1, 2011. Classwork began with online courses was followed by two weeks of onsite instruction at the University of Guam, ending on July 9, 2011.

Participant scholars represented the Pacific Islands of American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and Guam. All 20 scholars participated in an intensive two-week schedule of practical skills and instructional seminars at the UOG School of Business and Public Administration Building.

University of Massachusetts - Boston faculty headed up classes, which included Braille I taught by Wendy L. Buckley, M.Ed., Ed.S. and Sandy Smith, M.Ed., C.A.E.S. and an Orientation & Mobility (O&M) and Activities of Daily Living (ADL) course taught by Robert McCulley, M.Ed., Laura Bozeman Ph.D., Paula Kosior, and Darick Wright, MA.

"We were so excited to offer this opportunity to educators in the Pacific," said Heidi San Nicolas, Ph.D., Guam CEDDERS Director. *"Together we are building local capacity throughout the Pacific to serve our students who are blind or are vision impaired."*

The Pacific VIP Master's Degree Program utilized a blended delivery approach of online coursework and onsite required class/lab work in Guam, enhanced by integrated field experiences coordinated throughout the academic program. At the end of the four-year program, scholars will earn a Master of Education in Special Education degree, plus dual credentials in Teacher of Visual Impairments (TVI) and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) with the goal of working with students with visual impairments in their respective island communities. ***(UOG)***

GARRISON

From Page 1

as Sablan's continued "inaction and promises," Garrison emailed Sablan late last week about his decision to resign.

He admitted being surprised that it was announced yesterday. "I was not even informed that she will announce it today," he said, adding that he has yet to inform his staff and faculty.

Commissioner Sablan refused to comment on Garrison's statements.

"I want to say that I don't have any statements to make at this time on things that he has disclosed [to you]," the commissioner told *Saipan Tribune*.

Garrison has been making headlines since he took over as MHS principal. He was the subject of a four-day protest in April organized by former MHS teacher James Yangetmai's group, demanding his immediate ouster. Garrison was also the subject of two recent public hearings at the Legislature. Most of the criticisms thrown his way relate to his leadership and management style.

Disappointed

Garrison assured yesterday that he was not forced or asked to step down from his post. He admitted, though, that he had been thinking about quitting since being transferred to MHS last school year.

"I am not sad and not relieved… disappointed probably. I just can't continue to take this kind of imbedded abuse from many different angles. I don't want to stay for the wrong reasons," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Garrison said he has no concrete plans yet on what his next step is. He expressed a desire, though, to open a private secondary school that will help underprivileged students. He hinted that he might even go back to public schools but probably under a new commissioner. He is also weighing his options of going back to Thailand or California.

Garrison, who has been with PSS for 15 years, is a former vice principal of Saipan Southern High School. He later became its principal when his predecessor, Peter Leau, was appointed PSS associate commissioner for administrative services.

'Fed up'

Garrison, who is credited with transforming Saipan Southern High into a model school, said he's not learning anymore in his position.

"I've been in the system for 15 years and I fought long and hard to achieve the things we did at SSHS. I fought even harder to achieve the same at MHS…but frankly I am fed up fighting a battle when the people in charge who must support me are part of the problem. One of the things here is, I am not learning anymore from the leadership," he said.

He also labeled the decision to transfer him to MHS last school year as a "poor" show of PSS leadership.

"Timing is everything and that was a poor decision made by the leadership," he said, pointing at the many programs at SSHS that he initiated and have been put on hold as a result of his transfer.

Garrison said that Sablan "is just good in making promises" but he didn't elaborate on this statement.

He admitted that the issues raised by Yangetmai's group also weighed in his decision to resign.

Yangetmai formally filed a grievance complaint against Garrison last week. No decision has been reached on this matter.

Garrison has countered Yangetmai's allegations point-by-point on numerous occasions, the latest of which was a 20-page written testimony he submitted on July 6 to the House Committee on Education.

FOOTING

From Page 1

which is separate from their monthly salaries or leadership account if they are a member of the leadership.

The leased vehicles include Ford Ranger, Ford Fusion, Nissan Rogue, Nissan Sentra and Nissan Altima.

Only at least seven lawmakers have been confirmed to be driving their own car for personal and official functions.

The remaining four senators and two House members were either not available for comment or did not want to comment on the issue.

Some lawmakers with vehicle leases said as long as they are able to live within their means, they are free to lease vehicles for their official functions such as for community services that include delivering chairs and tents, and environmental cleanups.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos confirmed yesterday that the administration has approved a $600 to $700 monthly rent for a Toyota Highlander that's being used by the governor. He said the rental is good for only eight months.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the Toyota Highlander is the only vehicle being leased by the Executive Branch that he is aware of.

The administration said that Fitial's severe back pain makes it difficult for him to get in and out of his sedan. With the rented SUV, the governor could get in and out with more ease.

While there's at least one taxpayer-paid car rental in the Executive Branch, there's at least 16 in the Legislature and six that are yet to be confirmed.

The lawmakers so far confirmed not using taxpayers' money for their personal and official functions are Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Yumul said he uses his personal car also for official functions. He said his staffers also use their personal cars for official functions but are using a government fleet card for gasoline expenses of some $300 a month.

Five more lawmakers were added yesterday to the 11 lawmakers earlier reported with car leases.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday his office leases a Nissan Rogue for $600 a month.

Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) and vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) also have vehicle leases for undisclosed amounts.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), for his part, said yesterday he leases a Ford Ranger for some $400 a month.

"I have been contemplating on terminating the car lease. It's something that my office can let go," he said.

The other lawmakers said if they could function without having to resort to vehicle leases, so could their colleagues during these tough economic times when hundreds of government employees are having payless paydays and 16-hour work cut biweekly.

Others with vehicle leases of $400 to $700 a month include Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Guerrero (R-Saipan), floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

FROILAN

From Page 1

of extreme importance.

"Because having special sessions means we didn't do our job during the regular sessions. The Constitution allows for a hiatus," he said.

Article II of the NMI Constitution says each house shall meet in regular sessions for no more than 90 days each year, 60 days before April 1 and 30 days after July 31 of each calendar year.

They may be convened at other times for not more than 10 consecutive days upon request by its presiding officer or by the governor.

When meeting pursuant to a call by the governor, the Legislature shall consider only those subjects described in the call.

Of the 20 House members, 14 were present in six special sessions.

Besides Tenorio with three absences, those with one absence each during special sessions held between April and June were Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

Tenorio said he was in California for official business and personal leave during the times he was absent from special sessions.

In the Senate, only two senators had one absence each during six special sessions.

They were Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan).

All the absences were marked "excused."

During the quarter, 11 bills were signed into law, but most of them introduced during previous quarters.

One became law after the House and Senate overrode the governor's veto, authorizing the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to establish a student driver education program.

PSS in historic conference call with USDOE's Duncan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Stakeholders of the CNMI Public School System will have a chance to talk directly with U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan tomorrow when both parties hold a dialogue via conference call.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and Board of Education chair Marylou Ada disclosed yesterday that Duncan has approved a conference call with Commonwealth educators tomorrow, Wednesday, beginning at 10am, Saipan time. It will be held at the board's conference room.

Sablan described the conference call as historic for the PSS, which sent the invite to Duncan in March.

"This is historic for the PSS and we're very excited," said Sablan, adding that the conference call is also a first for U.S. outlying areas.

Sablan said that Duncan also authorized the presence of education stakeholders—members of the public—at the conference call.

Besides updates on ongoing projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Duncan will also be provided important data about the CNMI Public School System, Sablan said.

The dialogue, according to Ada, will also be a good opportunity for the Commonwealth to present vital education issues at the national level.

"We will provide the secretary important information about our school system because we want him to be fully aware about all the things that really affect the system," said Ada, adding that PSS may also seek guidance and clarification from the education secretary on certain federal grant applications. She is optimistic the dialogue will benefit Commonwealth students.

Duncan

Besides the conference call, PSS is also expecting USDOE consultant Christine Jackson to be on Rota Thursday for a short visit. The official is part of the contingent that will visit Guam this week.

In October last year, Dr. Carl E. Harris, USDOE deputy assistant secretary for Policy and State Technical Assistance, visited the CNMI and shared President Obama's "A Blueprint for Reform." In that visit, Harris said the efforts he had seen in the Commonwealth are aligned with the federal government's goal for education in all states and insular areas.

The blueprint proposes to raise the standards for all students, develop better assessment tools that will better capture higher-order skills, and will provide more accurate measures of student growth. The federal government will also support states, districts, school leaders and teachers in implementing a more complete education through improved professional development and evidence-based instructional models and support.

OAG to introduce suspect's prior 'bad acts' at trial

The Superior Court will allow the government to introduce a suspect's prior bad acts, including a vehicular homicide incident, when an "ice" trafficking case goes to trial.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled that the Office of the Attorney General may introduce evidence of other offenses if it provides a proper purpose or is intrinsic to the crime charged against Kurt King.

King, 30, is charged with trafficking of a controlled substance, illegal possession of a controlled substance, and conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance.

The OAG is seeking to introduce King's prior illegal use of "ice," prior illegal use of marijuana, his vehicular homicide of Gerald Mundo Aldan, and his prior assault and battery case.

In granting the motion, Wiseman said if the evidence is being offered to show that King either possessed or sold drugs in the past, and therefore most likely possessed or sold drugs on this occasion, then this will be improper character evidence and will be inadmissible.

However, Wiseman said, if the evidence is being offered for another purpose allowed under the NMI Rules of Evidence and not for its propensity, then it will be admitted as "other purpose" evidence, subject to the NMI Rules of Evidence 403 balancing test.

NMI Rules of Evidence 403 states that "if the intended evidence's prejudice substantially outweighs its probative value, it may not be admitted."

The judge said the government must first state the purpose for its intended use of each of the four pieces of evidence so as not to be mistaken for improper character evidence.

"Thereafter, the court will balance the probative value versus the potential for unfair prejudice," he said.

Wiseman said that King's prior use of illegal drugs may be admitted as intrinsic evidence to prove, among other things, knowledge and plan in connection with the conspiracy charge.

However, Wiseman said, the vehicular charge and the assault and battery charge are not intrinsic to the crimes charged. Therefore, he said, if the government intends to introduce those acts, it must first meet the requirements of the NMI Rules of Evidence.

Wiseman said the government will need to make an offer or proof as to the purpose of the evidence prior to it being brought in.

This can be done, the judge said, at trial outside the presence of the jury and shall not be referred to during openings. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN
FY 2012-2016

Goals & Objectives

EMPLOYEMENT AND EDUCATION:
People with DD have improved access to employment and education opportunities consistent with their interest, abilities, and needs.

TRANSPORTATION:
People with developmental disabilities have reasonable transportation services in the community.

CROSS CUTTING:
People with developmental disabilities are informed and assured immediate emergency care in the even of a disaster.

CNMI DD COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 502565
SAIPAN, MP 96950
info@cnmidd.org
Tel: (670) 664-7000
Fax: (670) 664–7030

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is required by Federal law to submit a Five Year State Plan every five years.

Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting public hearings on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota on how best the Council can and should serve all individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. During the public hearings, all persons with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, the general public will be provided the opportunity to review and offer comment or input on the proposed goals and objectives of its proposed FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN. The proposed Five Year State Plan will cover periods beginning Fiscal years 2012 to 2016.

All and any comments, recommendations or inputs given during these hearings will be used to establish or complete the proposed Five Year State Plan.

Schedule of Public Hearings

SAIPAN	TINIAN	ROTA
WHEN: July 18, 2011	WHEN: July 20, 2011	WHEN: July 22, 2011
WHERE: Multi-Purpose Center	WHERE: Tinian Public Library	WHERE: Rota Round House
TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm	TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm	TIME: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements. Alternative formats of the proposed 5 Year State Plan is available upon request.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

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Jennifer Ross will be at:
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- Saturday July 16th 9:00am - 1:00pm at Marianas Medical Center in **Garapan**

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234-3925/7
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Ross Hearing Aids

Five independent agencies owe Fund $34.8M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least five autonomous agencies have incurred $34.8 million in unpaid contributions to the pension program, according to NMI Retirement Fund deputy administrator Esther Ada in her report to the board of trustees Friday.

The amount is as of April 30 this year and is expected to increase in coming months.

Ada disclosed that the Public School System has the highest unpaid obligation, incurring $22.9 million in delinquent payments to the Fund through April.

Northern Marianas College comes next with $6.2 million in unpaid obligations, while the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has so far incurred $3.9 million.

Fund officials earlier disclosed that the debt of these three agencies may be absorbed by the central government, if an agreement between concerned parties is reached. Monies used to pay for these obligations are sourced from the government's general fund.

Also delinquent in its contribution payment is the Marianas Visitors Authority, with $741,000, and the Tinian Municipal Treasury, the amount of which was not disclosed in Friday's meeting.

The CNMI government's deficient contributions, meantime, is at $177.3 million just for the current fiscal year, according to Ada.

Saipan Tribune learned that autonomous agencies incurred large receivables because of the changes in the laws pertaining to the employer's contribution rate from 36 percent to 11 percent.

It was learned Friday that the Fund's investment portfolio, based on preliminary records, is valued at only $311 million as of June 30, 2011. This is a significant drop from April's $329 million but is a slight improvement over the $305 million posted in May. The decline was attributed to the volatile market and the continuous drawdown from the investment fund.

Youth leadership in the spotlight

» DYS to mark 30th anniversary on Aug. 13

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At 13, Cleah San Nicolas is urging youngsters like herself to take part in activities that she says will empower the youth and turn them into productive citizens.

San Nicolas was one of the youth leaders who took part in yesterday's signing of a proclamation declaring July 11 to Aug. 13 "Youth Leadership Month."

The monthlong celebration, which includes summer sports camp and summer day camp, will be capped by the Division of Youth Services' 30th anniversary celebration on Aug. 13 at the Susupe basketball court from 9am to 4pm.

"I would like to have this moment to recognize the Division of Youth Services-DCCA [Department of Community and Cultural Affairs] for providing opportunities and support that enables youth functions to become a reality," San Nicolas said in her opening remarks.

Seven-year-old Alysonred Camacho and 17-year-old John Cenir read the proclamation that acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed before youth leaders, government officials, parents, and other members of the community.

In an interview with reporters after the proclamation signing in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill, Inos said one of the major challenges is the ability to keep a greater number of youth in productive and positive activities.

He said the government is doing its best to keep as many youth as possible away from drug abuse, alcohol drinking, cigarette smoking, and other activities that put their health and safety in danger.

In his proclamation, Inos said youth leadership can be successfully achieved when youths receive support and training, share their expertise and leadership, and participate in the decision-making process in the planning and implementation of programs and policies affecting the youth and communities.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos listens as youth leader Cleah San Nicolas delivers her opening remarks at a proclamation signing declaring Youth Leadership Month in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill. Also in photo is House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), left.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Seven-year-old Alysonred Camacho, a youth leader, helps read a proclamation declaring Youth Leadership Month, while acting governor Eloy Inos looks on.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

"The power of youths speaking publicly about their needs, interests, and their experiences has made and will continue to make an impact on the lives of youth everywhere," he said.

San Nicolas, in her remarks, said youth policy has identified the key areas of youth concerns including education, training and employment, health, environment, recreation and sports, arts and culture, civic and citizenship.

DYS community action team chair Luis I. Camacho and DYS community outreach program coordinator Bill P. Limes are inviting the community to join the summer sports camp from July 11 to 22, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, at the Ada Gym in Oleai.

Participants will be able to take part in baseball, basketball, track and field, soccer, and volleyball.

The summer day camp will be from Aug. 1 to 12 at the Garapan Community Development Center, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Participating youth will be able to learn about bead-making, mwar making, banana painting, and weaving.

Young and adults listen to speakers at a Youth Leadership Month proclamation signing.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos and House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) pose for a group photo with youth leaders, parents, government officials, and other community members after the acting governor signs a proclamation declaring Youth Leadership Month.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Guma' Esperansa offers training for volunteer advocates

Guma' Esperansa is offering a training opportunity for community advocates who can effectively and meaningfully respond to incidents of sexual assault.

Advocates will provide victims with crisis intervention, referral of services through a 24-hour hotline, counseling and accompaniment to medical appointment, police interviews and civil and criminal court proceedings.

Selected candidates will receive 40 hours of training on sexual assault services and advocacy skills and coordinate with Guma' Esperansa staff to provide top-quality services to victims of sexual assault.

Guma' Esperansa ensures that services will be accessible to all in need, with special attention to culturally and linguistically isolated ethnic communities.

"We encourage people from various backgrounds representing the ethnic communities in the CNMI to apply for this training," Guma' Esperansa said in a statement.

Eligibility criteria

- 18 years of age or above
- Have a strong desire to volunteer and take part in the training
- Preferably fluent in more than one spoken language in the CNMI
- Interested in issues of gender violence including domestic violence and sexual assault

Interested applicants can pick up an application form at Karidat main office in Chalan Kanoa and submit it with a current police clearance within the last six months.

You can also email GEcommunity-advocatetraining@gmail.com for an electronic copy of the application.

Deadline of the submission of all the required documents is July 31, 2011. ***(PR)***

Email OK'd to serve summons, cross-claim

'Lawyer appears to be an elusive int'l defendant'

The federal court has allowed the former trustee of JLH Trust (Junior Larry Hillbroom) to serve via email and registered mail the summons and his cross-claim against attorney Barry J. Israel, one of Hillbroom's former lawyers.

U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood ruled that Israel appears to be "an elusive international defendant, striving to evade service of process."

Tydingco-Gatewood said the "particularities and necessities of [this] case require alternate service of process."

The judge said the lawyer of JLH Trust former trustee Keith Waibel shall have 30 days to serve Israel, by email, with an electronic version of the summons and cross-complaint.

"Israel shall be deemed served with the summons and cross-complaint on the date that cross claimant Waibel's counsel receives a confirmation of the receipt of the email and files [this] confirmation with the court," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

Should service by email fails, the court's clerk shall address and send via U.S. mail the summons and cross-complaint to Israel at the address of his residence, the judge said.

Israel shall be deemed served with the summons and cross-complaint on the date that he, or someone on his behalf, executes the mail receipt, she added.

Waibel, through counsels G. Patrick Civille and Robert T. Torres, asked the court to allow him to serve the summons and his cross-claim against Israel by email and registered mail as the lawyer is hiding in Vietnam.

Waibel told the court that Hillbroom has demonstrated that all conventional attempts to serve Israel with summons have proven fruitless.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom.

Hillbroom has sued Israel in federal court for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorneys' contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings. Waibel was also named co-defendant in the lawsuit for negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and racketeering activity.

Waibel denied the allegations and filed a cross-claim against Israel in federal court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MEMBERSHIP MEETING HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Republican Party executive committee member Danny Aquino, right, raises his concerns during the Republican Party's general membership meeting on Friday night when new officers were elected and 1,077 applications were accepted.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian scholarship board meeting today

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship board will be having a meeting today, July 12, 2011, at 3pm, at the Tinian mayor's conference room to discuss the application deadline for school year 2011-2012. ***(PR)***

Dog licensing resumes this week

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan will reopen its dog control program, "Dog Tag License Registration," this week, from July 11 to 22.

Registration will take place at the Mayor of Saipan compound in Chalan Kanoa (behind the post office) from 9am to 4pm (open during lunch hours).

Pet owners are advised to first pay the fees at either the CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill, Superior Court in Susupe, or Tax and Revenue in Dandan then proceed to the registration site. Applications are available at the cashiers. Fill out the application per dog to expedite the process. ***(PR)***

2 from NMI land on EOU dean's list

More than 460 students at Eastern Oregon University have been named to the dean's list for the 2011 spring term. To qualify students must achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework for the duration of the term.

The following students from the CNMI qualified for the distinction:

- Lauri Ann Guardian of Saipan
- Rellani Ogumoro of Saipan

Eastern Oregon University serves students and communities throughout Oregon with a special focus on rural, regional, and distance learning. Programs are delivered on campus, online and onsite in La Grande and at 16 regional centers and include liberal arts, business, education and cooperative programs in agriculture, nursing, and dental hygiene. ***(EOU)***

Registrations ongoing at Green Meadow School

Registrations for school year 2011-2012 for kindergarten (K3 to K5) and elementary (1st to 6th Grades) are ongoing at Green Meadow School. Contact us at tel. 235-2185, or 234-0898 or e-mail us at green_meadow07@yahoo.com or gms.saipan@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area-517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- July 11-14, from 1pm to 3am
- July 15, from 8am to 10pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on July 12-13, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(USN)***

Veterans employment coordinator to conduct workshops

Guam Department of Labor Disable Veterans Outreach Program coordinator Jackie Nguyen will be conducting employment information workshops from July 14 to 20 in the CNMI. The DVOP is responsible for Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa. She will also be available to meet with veterans and family members individually to answer questions.

Nguyen's schedule is as follows:

- July 14-16 on Saipan from 9am to 4pm at the WIA office in Capital Hill
- July 14, on Saipan from 7am to 9am, VFW at the VFW headquarters
- July 17-18 on Tinian from 9am to 4pm at the Tinian Municial Council's Office
- July 19-20 on Rota, 9am-4pm at the WIA Office.

For further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/ Veterans affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach on July 25-29

Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Legal Administrative Specialist from Guam and the Northern Marian Islands, will be on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from July 25 to 29 for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits.

She will be also be entertaining veterans questions and assist with claims. Agustin's schedule is a follows:

- July 25, 8:30am-4:30pm on Rota at the WIA office
- July 26-27, 8:30-4:30 on Tinian at the Tinian Municipal Council's office
- July 28-29, 8:30-4:30 on Saipan at the Military/ Veterans Affairs office on Capitol Hill, building 1364.

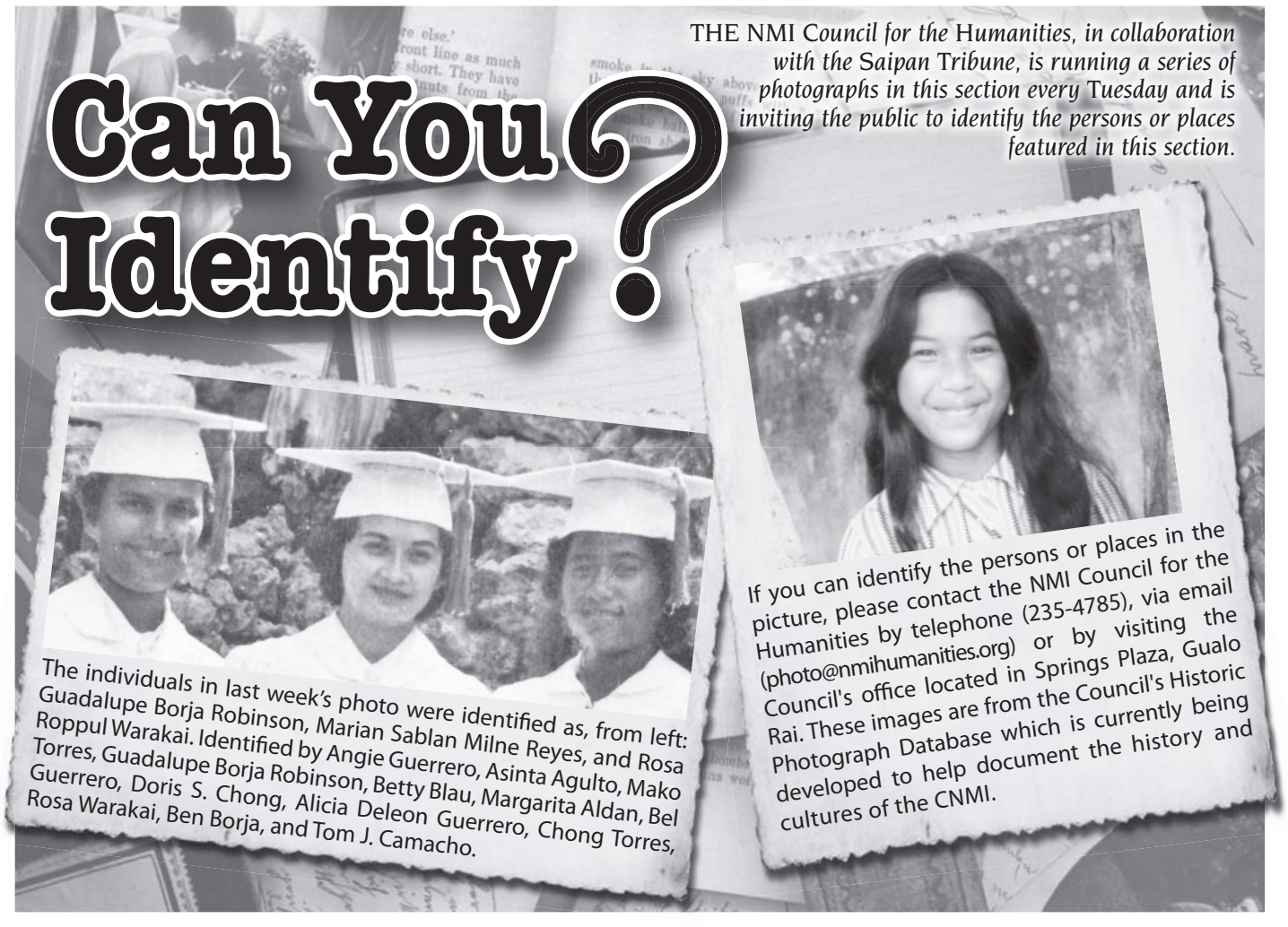
If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/ Veterans affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Hopwood grade 6 and 7 open registration set

The open registration for seventh and eighth grade levels of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School is set from July 11 to July 29. Parents and guardians of enrolling students should provide the school with all the necessary documents to avoid any problem in the processing of their child's enrollment. Any new or transfer students must also provide proper documents to prevent any delay in their processing. For more information, contact the school at 237-3422/3395/3421. ***(PR)***

Enrollment info for Kagman High

To all returning Kagman High School students, parents and guardians: All students must register anew for school year 2011-2012, even if you went to KHS this last school year. The school is updating its records and everyone must re-register or they will not receive a class schedule for the school year. Register before Aug. 19 for optimum scheduling. Registration forms can be picked up from the registrar or in the main office. For more information, call 237 3840 or 237 3886. ***(PR)***


Can You Identify?
THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.
The individuals in last week's photo were identified as, from left: Guadalupe Borja Robinson, Marian Sablan Milne Reyes, and Rosa Roppul Warakai. Identified by Angie Guerrero, Asinta Agulto, Mako Torres, Guadalupe Borja Robinson, Betty Blau, Margarita Aldan, Bel Guerrero, Doris S. Chong, Alicia Deleon Guerrero, Chong Torres, Rosa Warakai, Ben Borja, and Tom J. Camacho.
If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 12, 1999

Proposal to tap immigration expert axed

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday thumbed down suggestion from legislators to hire an outside immigration law expert who will assist the Commonwealth in proposing reform measures in the U.S. Congress in lieu of federal takeover legislation. "I'd rather see that legislation be introduced here in the CNMI," he told reporters after meeting with members of the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee where the proposal was broached. "I don't think the committee will do that—they are proposing to draft legislation for the federal government. I will not make recommendation or suggestion [on that proposal]," added Tenorio.

More funds for independent programs eyed

The House Ways and Means began on Friday its deliberation of the proposed FY 2000 budget, pledging to increase funds set aside by the Tenorio administration to a cash-strapped independent program once the government's financial resources improve. Representatives of the charity group Karidat asked the committee for additional funding for the next fiscal year, citing potential huge shortfall in its budget that may hamper the delivery of services to the community. Karidat has been providing assistance to the community, like meals and other basic necessities for alien workers who have been abandoned by their employers, as well as counseling and other needs for troubled youth and victims of domestic violence.

July 12, 2000

Fund adds $3.5M to its Asian investment

The NMI Retirement Fund board has approved the infusion of an additional $3.5 million to its investment in Asia as the region has shown signs of economic recovery. This brings to $18.5 million the total money now handled by its money manager Invesco Asia Ltd. in the region. In January 1996, the Fund invested $15 million in Asia but the financial crisis in the region brought down the value of its investment to $6 million in June 1998. As of May 31, 2000, the Fund's $15 million investment is valued at $9.8 million. According to Vicente Camacho, NMIRF Board chair, the decision was made by the board directors after meeting with their regional economists and money managers in Hong Kong in October 1999.

Insect-infested wood products seized

The Division of Quarantine has stumbled into a 20-foot cargo containing potentially hazardous merchandise shipped from Indonesia that are feared to affect the island's ecological balance. Quarantine officials held the entry of several stone statues, bamboo ornaments, wooden furniture, metals, and handicrafts aboard a large container after discovering the commodities were contaminated with dirt, bugs, and different types of insects. Acting Department of Agriculture director Stan Villagomez yesterday laid the blame on inadequate quarantine procedures performed by the country of origin as it apparently failed to thoroughly check if the contents of the container were free from undesirable elements.

July 12, 2001

Special program for NMI's diabetics pressed

Over 30 diabetes patients and relatives of persons afflicted with the disease trooped to the "Pacific Diabetes Today" workshop yesterday, where they shared accounts of their encounter with the disease. During yesterday's forum, most of the participants admitted to spending some time in denial that they, of all people, could be afflicted with diabetes. Some blamed genetics. Others professed they were just probably too lax with their eating and exercise habits. But in general, participants agreed they all wanted to seek an end to the ordeal before its complications lead to fatality.

Better jail programs mulled

Steps to create a Department of Corrections that is separate from the Department of Public Safety gained ground yesterday after the House of Representatives passed on first reading a bill providing for such a distinction. The House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations, to which House Bill 12-375 was referred, said that it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth for criminal offenders to be rehabilitated and reeducated to prevent recidivism. "With such a broad mandate, the committee finds that it is necessary to create a Department of Corrections that is provided with administration and appropriation separate from that of the Department of Public Safety," said Rep. Dino Jones, committee chairman.

Pacific

Despite tragedy, Tonga unprepared for tsunami

» Warning sirens, better communication needed

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Tonga remains unprepared for a local tsunami and Nuku'alofa is particularly at risk, Tonga's Director of Meteorology 'Ofa Fa'anunu warned after yesterday morning's tsunami alert, saying that better community alert systems need to be urgently put in place.

Alert sirens are urgently needed as part of a better communication system and alert infrastructure, he said.

"Although warnings are being received and delivered on time to and from warning centers, mechanisms and infrastructure available to raise an immediate alert and response does not exist," he warned in a report on Tonga's response to the July 7 earthquake and tsunami in the Kermadec Islands region between Tonga and New Zealand.

He said that most of Tonga's population is located in the capital on a narrow peninsula surrounded by water, where an earthquake nearby could create a tsunami in a matter of minutes to an hour "such as that that caused loss of life in Niuatoputapu in 2009."

The report reveals that in addition to local alert problems only four out of the seven modes of international communications for receiving tsunami bulletins are currently working in Tonga. Tonga Met has configuration problems with the other three satellite and computer early warning systems, including the EMWIN, and NOAA's CHATTY Beetle and CISN.

And it was discovered that Tonga's only tsunami gauge run by the Australian Sea Level Monitoring Network at the Queen Salote Wharf was out of order when critical information was needed this morning.

"If a wave had hit Nuku'alofa we would have been unable to warn Ha'apai and Vava'u of its height," said 'Ofa who monitors the sea gauge online after tsunami bulletins are issued. "We had not been informed that it was out of action, and I will lodge a complaint to Australia," he said.

"Tongatapu, Ha'apai and Niuatoputapu groups are at most risk due to the low lying nature of the land."

This morning three tsunami bulletins were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii and received in Tonga by email and fax, following a 7.8 magnitude earthquake located in the Kermadec Islands region 930km south of Tongatapu at 8:03 am. The Fua'amotu Weather Centre then issued vebal alerts by telephone to the seven response centres and also through Radio Tonga One announcements.

The first bulletin at 8:12 am local time indicated that the estimated time of arrival would be 9:17 am if a wave had been generated.

The second bulletin issued at 8:33am local time reported waves measured 2.2ft amplitude at Raoul Island tide gauges, 211km west of the earthquake epicenter.

The third and final bulletin issued at 8:59am local time cancelled the warnings but also reported waves measured 3.3ft amplitude at Raoul Island gauges.

A 10cm tidal reading was later recorded at the Suva gauge at around 10:40am.

There were no effects reported to the Tonga Meteorological Service although schools and some businesses were closed for the day once the tsunami warnings were issued.

'Ofa said three main problems encountered locally during the warnings included: phone line congestion, not being able to reach key persons and the AM radio procedures.

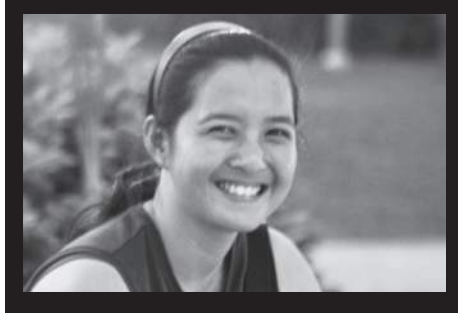
A flood of incoming calls to the Tonga Met Office congested the lines making it difficult for the office to contact response agencies. "A direct hotline should be implemented between Met Office, the National Emergency Management Office and the Tonga Broadcasting Commission," said 'Ofa.

All the mobile contacts of TBC listed with the Met Service were not working, engaged or not answered. This caused some delays in initially informing the station to broadcast the warnings. This was also the case with the Tonga Communications Corporation."He also called for changes to AM Radio procedures.

"It is the view of the Warning Centre that TBC procedures for local tsunami warnings should be revised. During warnings events for a local tsunami, the TBC AM Radio should consider not broadcasting anything else such as Tonga news from overseas or funeral advices or anything else but repeat the warnings over and over and standby for live interviews with the warnings centre, seeing that local tsunami waves can affect the shoreline within minutes," he said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our dear friend, Anna Liza Guancia! May this day always be a special one to remember and be filled with sunshine and smile, laughter and love. Greetings come from Maricar and iFashion staff.



Happy birthday Christina Nierras! Hope you have a great day. We love and miss you. Greetings come from your NMCC family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Fiji pensioners in dark as regime plans cuts

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Fiji pensioners say they're being left in the dark over plans to cut their pensions and say it's unacceptable they don't know what their next payout will be. The Fiji National Provident Fund is planning reforms which could see pensions cut from 25 percent to about nine percent, but no final date has been given for changes to be brought in. Long-time pensioner and businessman Ross McDonald says there's real hardship and concern for elderly people left in the lurch waiting for information with a claim in the courts adding to the confusion. "There's been no formal statement. There's been no statement from the government as to what their intention may be so we're left in a state of uncertainty."

24 Tongans abscond from Kiwi work program

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Tonga is concerned about its reputation following news that 24 Tongans have absconded from a regional work scheme in New Zealand. New Zealand's Ministry of Labour and Commerce says the number is relatively low and it is unlikely Tonga will be dropped from the Recognised Seasonal Employers Scheme as a result. Tatafu Moeaki, chief executive of Tonga's Ministry of Labour, said 24 is a very low proportion of the thousand or so Tongans who go to New Zealand on the scheme. But he said it was still a serious breach. Moeaki said: "We have certain agreements with them, and not only the workers and government, but also through the understandings with the New Zealand government, that they have to strictly adhere to returning home when their tour is finished."

Emergency fuel buy prevents Marshalls blackout

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Marshall Islands has averted a possible shut down of its power plants, with the government organising an unusual purchase of about 700,000 gallons of diesel. This prevented the company from running out of fuel for power plants in Majuro and Ebeye, the two urban centers that have about 70 percent of the total Marshall Islands. The Marshalls Energy Company's Steve Wakefield says the government utility company bought a load of fuel from a high seas tanker. The company has been scrambling to come up with the money to pay for the April shipment of diesel from its usual supplier so that a new delivery of more than two million gallons can be scheduled.

Journalists to take Vanuatu assault case to UN

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Pacific area journalists say they will go to the United Nations' human rights commission over an assault on a newspaper publisher in Vanuatu. Marc Neil-Jones, who was assaulted by a government minister, has questioned the country's justice system and says he is considering moving elsewhere. Vanuatu government minister Harry Iuako pleaded guilty last month to taking part in an assault against Mr Neil-Jones, publisher of the Vanuatu Daily Post. He was fined the equivalent of $US150. Neil-Jones has described the fine as nothing but a slap on the wrist, by a judiciary too scared to put MPs offside, and said he intended to appeal.

Missing head of Kanak chief found in Paris museum

» Atai killed, decapitated in 1878 uprising

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The head of a Kanak high chief, believed to be missing after being taken from New Caledonia, has been found in the storage area of a French museum.

The warrior Atai was killed and decapitated in 1878 when the colonial administrators put down a Kanak rebellion.

His head was taken to Paris and as Kanaks reclaimed its return in recent years, it was officially declared missing.

However, it has been found at the Museum of Mankind in Paris as France was preparing the recent return of Maori heads to New Zealand.

One of Atai's descendants says there is a strong wish that the head be returned and for a monument to be erected combined with a reconciliation ceremony.

Ten missing in boat off Solomons' Ulawa Island

» Boat was in transit in rough seas

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Ten people including two children are reportedly missing at sea between Ulawa and Three Sister Island in Makira/Ulawa Province.

Reports reaching The Solomon Star from Ulawa stated they were on their way to Three Sister Island from Ulawa to work on a tourism home stay project.

However, they never made it to the destination since then.

As of last night, a spokesman from the Search and Rescue Unit confirmed that they were yet to be located.

"We are still waiting on latest updates but there is still nothing new," the spokesman said.

The Solomon Star understands that a search and rescue team including police in the province have been searching since Tuesday.

A helicopter was also dispatched to the area yesterday to help with the rescue efforts.

However, because of the bad weather search had been called off late yesterday afternoon.

It is still unknown if they have drifted or their boat has capsized.

It is understood two people who had mobile phones in the boat were unable to be contacted because their phones were disconnected.

What should be an independence celebration for families of the ten people turned out otherwise, as families prayed for the safety of their loved ones.

Over the past days weather conditions in the country had been very poor with strong wind, high swells, heavy rain at times in parts of the country.

The weather office over the past days have also issued advice on the weather conditions in the country advising the public to take extra precaution when out traveling in the sea.

ADB approves $35 million loan for Solomons roads

» Project to restore roads damaged by 2010 floods

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star, July 7, 2011)—Solomon Islands and the Asian Development Bank have signed a SB$265 million [US$34.8 million] grant from Australia to help restore vital transport links destroyed by the 2010 floods in central Solomon Islands.

A joint statement from Ausaid, NZAid, ADB and the Solomon Islands government says the grant was signed yesterday by the Finance and Treasury Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo and the Director General of ADB's Pacific Department.

It says the additional funding from Australia will be for the Second Road Improvement project SIRP2, which aims to replace or upgrade around 30 water crossings and to build a 20 kilometre road.

The project was approved by the ADB and co-financed as grants by the ADB and the Australian, New Zealand, Solomon Islands governments and the European Union.

The funding will also be for climate change proofing of transport links, enabling them to withstand extreme weather in the future.

It says the 2010 floods imposed additional costs on the project and a subsequent climate adaptation study showed there was an urgent need to further climate-proof the infrastructure.

Poha Bridge on West Guadalcanal and roads in north Malaita, to name a few, will be repaired under the grant.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

Doctor in the house? Maybe not

By ANNETTE FUENTES
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

The United States faces a shortage of doctors that will only get more acute if we don't respond to it now.

The doctor shortage varies by medical specialty and region, with primary care and family doctors—who provide cradle-to- grave care—being most in demand. Many rural and urban areas with high numbers of low-income residents are especially underserved by health care professionals.

When President Obama's health reform law fully kicks in by 2014 and an estimated 32 million people are newly insured and seek medical care, wait times to see a doctor will probably get longer than they are already.

The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that in the next 10 years, there will be 45,000 too few primary care doctors and 46,000 too few medical specialists (such as urologists and oncologists). By 2025, the total U.S. physician supply could be 130,000 below the demand of our population.

Doctor shortages could be especially bad for millions who will become eligible for Medicaid, the public insurance program for the poor. In many states, few doctors are willing to take Medicaid patients because the reimbursement rates are too low. For example, a survey of California physicians found that 90 percent were willing to take new patients, but just 57 percent willing to take new Medicaid patients. Nationally, one survey found just 53 percent of physicians willing to take Medicaid patients.

The aging of Americans is another factor that will contribute to the physician supply problem. Older people have greater health care needs and place a greater demand on the limited pool of doctors.

Doctors are growing old, too, with about a third of them set to reach retirement age in the next 10 years.

Replenishing the physician pool takes time, though.

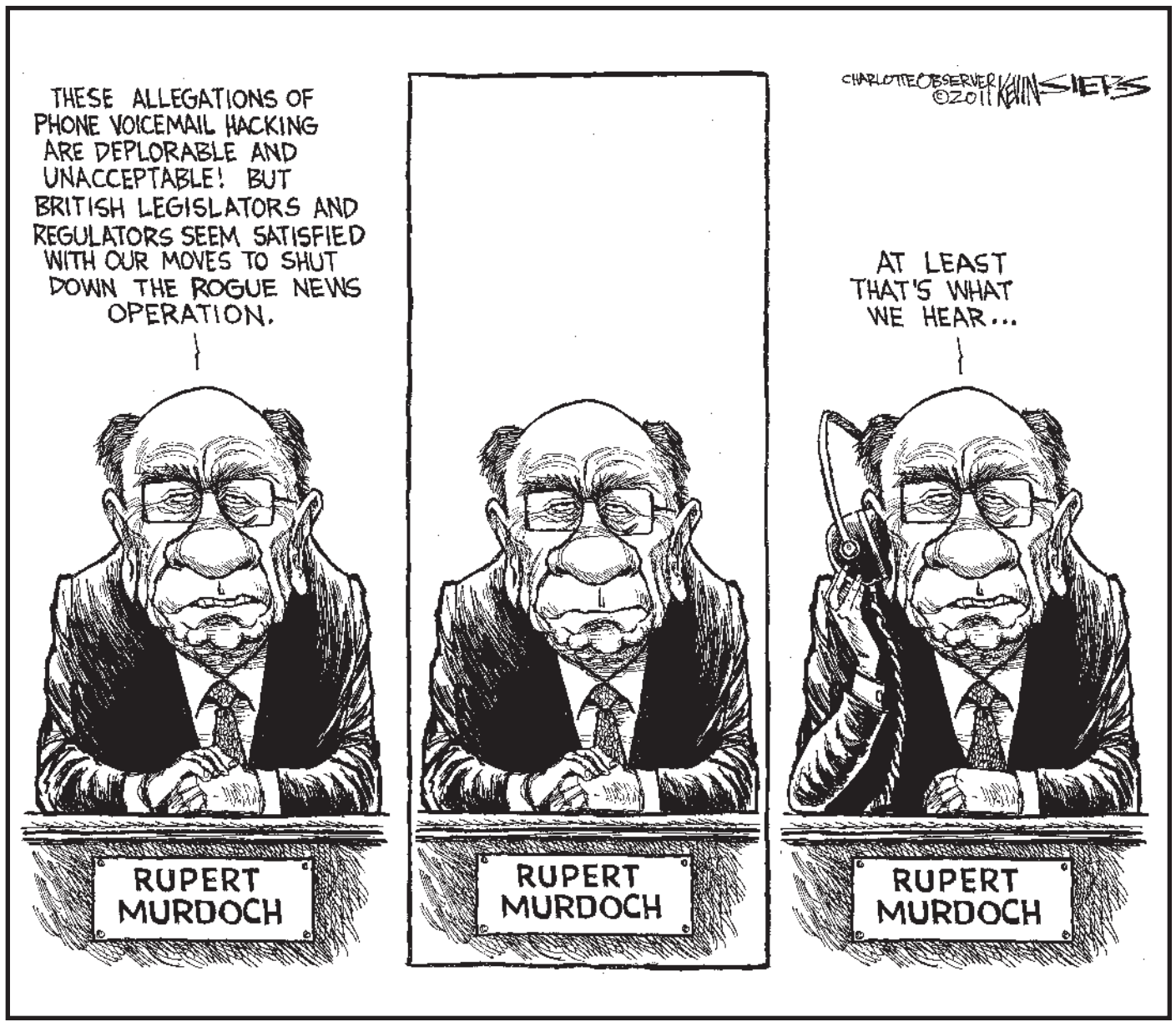
Educating new doctors is a decade-long process, from medical school to internships and or residency programs. Congress foolishly placed a cap on funding for residency programs, provided by Medicare, back in 1997, and the number of residency slots has not increased since then.

Lifting that cap and pumping more resources into graduate medical education is one obvious and necessary fix.

Another needed reform is to boost reimbursement rates for physicians who care for Medicaid patients.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act promised to deliver more health care to more people, but that promise will be empty if there aren't enough doctors available and willing to deliver on it for the millions of newly insured Americans.

Annette Fuentes is the author of the just-published book Lockdown High: When the Schoolhouse Becomes a Jailhouse*. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.*


THESE ALLEGATIONS OF PHONE VOICEMAIL HACKING ARE DEPLORABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE! BUT BRITISH LEGISLATORS AND REGULATORS SEEM SATISFIED WITH OUR MOVES TO SHUT DOWN THE ROGUE NEWS OPERATION.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT WE HEAR...
RUPERT MURDOCH
RUPERT MURDOCH
RUPERT MURDOCH
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ©2011 KEVIN SIERS

Will Google investigators look at the right sins?

By EDWARD WASSERMAN
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The public doesn't normally care much about monopoly power. This has always been a source of befuddlement among anti-corporate progressives, but there you are. At some level, people may understand that somebody owns too much of the country's corn or soybeans, and that drives up food prices. And they know our electricity comes from coal controlled by a tiny corporate oligarchy, which rakes off as much as it can while driving underpaid miners to early graves.

But by and large people seem to regard the monopolists' skim as a routine cost they bear as patriotic consumers, and move on to weightier things, like the latest Capitol Hill sex scandal.

In the media sphere, however, concentration arouses greater concern. Not because monopoly in that sector is more harmful than in energy or food, but because communications is society's central nervous system and excessive corporate power there seems to make us uneasy, seems to—forgive the expression—touch a nerve.

That is good, because monopoly is in the DNA of the communications business, and somebody needs to take notice. Media economics inherently spurs companies to produce ever greater volume to benefit from ever lower costs. Having another million people watch your TV program costs you not a nickel more. Big is good, bigger is better.

And control over one area of a media sector creates huge incentives to buy up the businesses you rely on. If you own the theaters that sell to the public, buy the studios that produce the movies that feed the theaters. If you own the TV networks that reach the viewers, take over program production. Control demand? Control supply too.

So traditionally, communications companies reach for monopoly, and regulators slap them back—early in the last century, from the destruction of the Edison Trust, which controlled the celluloid that movies were made with, to the birth of CBS when NBC was forced to give up one of its two radio networks, to the breakup of old Hollywood when the studios were ordered to sell their theater chains.

Later in the century, much the same regulatory logic led to the inconclusive action against IBM in 1969, the breakup of lumbering old AT&T in 1974—which made today's digital revolution possible—and the 1998 antitrust suit against Microsoft for allegedly using its desktop supremacy to dictate the future of the Internet.

And now to Google. The Federal Trade Commission, the Wall Street Journal reports, is preparing to subpoena the spectacularly successful Internet company to determine whether Google has misused its worldwide dominance over online searches to channel traffic to informational services it owns.

Now Google, by any measure, is an extraordinary company. It's barely 13 years old and in the first quarter of this year grossed $8.3 billion. Its core business remains search, and it gets roughly two-thirds of U.S. search traffic, some 80 percent of Europe's and 90 percent of Latin America's. You want to find something, you "google" it, even if the search engine you actually use is Yahoo or Bing.

But Google has diversified out of its core business, which consists of directing people to other sites, and increasingly offers a glittering array of services of its own, many of them in competition with others.

The company's imagination, capabilities, and ambitions seem inexhaustible—from its e-mail, geo-mapping, mobile apps, credit-rating and ad networks, to its project to digitize the world's books, voice recognition software and now, its Google+ social network meant to rival Facebook. It's hard to come up with any Internet-borne media possibility where the company isn't a contender.

Now, it would be surprising if more than one customer in a thousand actually knew how Google makes its money, the ways in which its business model is built on using information to get information, offering all manner of lures to sharpen, widen and deepen its reservoir of sophisticated intelligence about its millions of customers, so that they can be targeted with precision for advertising messages.

Any government move against Google will be denounced by the many customers who buy the notion that Google is giving them something for free. It's unlikely that an antitrust effort will go much beyond the question of how fairly Google's search engine is treating Google's rivals, and whether it's leveraging its search dominance to starve competitive services of traffic.

That's a reasonable area of inquiry. But in the long term, it's very likely that the scrutiny Google now undergoes will matter less than the scrutiny to which it subjects its own customers, and how long they put up with it.

Edward Wasserman is Knight professor of journalism ethics at Washington and Lee University. He wrote this column for The Miami Herald*. Readers may write to him at:* The Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132; website: www.edwardwasserman.com.*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The future of the CNMI according to…

Over the last 37 years I have watched the CNMI develop from that small, laid-back piece of the Trust Territory into a lumbering giant amongst Pacific islands during the '90s and for a while after 2000. History now tells us that our aspirations were misguided, fueled by the fervor of a few for quick wealth, greed and power. It has served those few well, but has it served you?

Since 1995, the CNMI was led into a snowstorm of corruption, conspiracy, mal-intent and all fostered by a sense of isolation, world events sometimes seen as directed solely against the CNMI, and leadership that consistently fell far short of reading what was written so clearly on the walls of disaster, having donned the blinders to reality during the "good ol' times." Some erudite individuals tried sounding warnings not dissimilar to the midnight ride of Paul Revere, but they were discounted, along with countless offerings and well-intended suggestions—mostly having come from "outsiders," myself included.

So much for the disdain of outside personalities. After all, hadn't the CNMI suffered hundreds of years under "foreigners?" But, now this once powerful and energetic island base is sliding rapidly down the slippery slope of collapse and led by so-called leaders who had managed to make a lifetime job out of politics and, blinded by their own sense of aggrandizement, no longer were able to heed or even hear the cries of their beleaguered people. People and businesses now taxed to death, some forced to leave their homeland to survive, have become so disconnected from current leadership that words of disparagement are flung at one another relentlessly—some on the pages of this periodical.

It's time to stop! This ship of a nation needs a new rudder, a new captain, a new crew. Some current elected officials are just now waking up to the new reality—a very bleak one at that—and doing…nothing! Well, almost nothing if you consider casino, open zoning, midnight massages, and marijuana as magic bullets. They are now seeing the exodus—and Moses is nowhere in sight. Unless changes are made, here are what I feel are some of the things the CNMI can look forward to over the next 10 years:

Continued decreasing budgets as the Legislature plods relentlessly toward more and more "revenue sources" (now known as "taxes") to perpetuate the bloated system while blindly believing in the tooth fairy (casino) and plunging headlong after more greedy "free" money, somehow having convinced themselves that the fairy godmother will descend and bestow their every desire; continued departure of business and people as earning a living wage no longer exists; a failed infrastructure as power generation flounders with its ever attendant water, sewage, etc.

We can point fingers at the rest of the world, as we have for the last few years, or at each other. We can "blame" air carriers, SARS, federalization, oil, Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny—but what has been or will be accomplished with this?

Or we can decide to stand, brush off and take the steps needed—and one of those steps is to clear ourselves of certain ingrained myths and the rationale behind "familial" politics. Since the end of the Trust Territory days, I have not been witness to a single stranger coming into this land with the intent to harm it or any of its people. In fact, there have been countless "outsiders" who came here, contributed, and fell in love with the place and its people. Many have left, many will stay and *all* will help if given the chance. I'm not speaking of the small, criminal element that has recently manifested and taken advantage of our untenable situation—but can be eliminated.

Let's speak briefly about the one thing that, in my view, will be the key to regenerating the CNMI: power, and I don't mean government. First, we have already been warned by officers at CUC that their engines won't last but about five to seven years more—a dire warning indeed, yet has any government official acknowledged it? Have there been *any* plans afoot to cope with such a collapse? Even if CUC's 30- to 40-year-old engines could be nursed along for another 10 years, here's what you face: Ever increasing maintenance costs, replacement parts that may or may not be available, frequent outages and disruptions, inability to service all users and rolling blackouts as production wanes or varies, ever more pernicious EPA oversight and ever increasing costs to the consumer, especially if the price of diesel continues to rise, as is likely. A co-operative or receivership is *not* the answer.

And what will CUC cost *you*? Currently operating on a $120 million or so annual budget, bolstered with higher than needed consumer billings because the government itself must be subsidized for failure to pay its own bill, and *not* including any cost increases, CUC will gobble up over $1.2 *billion* over the 10 years and *you* will pay ever increasing household bills, now pegged at around 40 cents per KwH and indelibly headed for 45 or even 50 cents per KwH as the consumer base depletes.

What is the government proposing? Well, nothing really. They opine of great solar arrays or huge wind farms and tapping unknown volcanic sources for geothermal power or the ocean's tides (while enacting additional taxes on "green" appliances). These so-called "alternative" power sources, consistently limited by local pundits as "solar, wind, bio-mass (ugh!) and geothermal," have been touted as the "answer," mostly by high-pitched sales people of unknown repute who would have you believe "they" and "they" alone have the magic bullet—and a "clean, green" one at that! Well, dream on (as they say); it ain't gonna happen, at least not here.

The costs of such impositions are outrageous, the true environmental impact is being hidden from you, government subsidies are the norm in current installations—and not a single one of them has yet to match or fall below the cost of diesel (all factors considered). They are touted as "green" but are they? Several times in letters to the editor, I have explained the "green" footprint of these industries—and they are not what you have been led to believe. Truly, the wind and the sun *are* not free power for one and all! (Caveat: individual, private, supplemental units *are* a viable use of wind and solar, so why is our government *not* supporting such?)

A well-respected former educator, Roger Mr. Ludwick, has touched upon a *new* technology—a *safe, cheap* source of power, *albeit* a controversial one simply because for two generations we have been guided (more often, mis-guided) by the complexities of the nuclear phenomenon. Currently invested nuclear plants have shown us their power—to destroy and, as is the wont of most, to believe the worst is ingrained. Now, we have a newer version and, to some, it is difficult to envision that an industry we already loathe can somehow become our benefactor, having cured the problems so often displayed in the past. I've already spoken in previous letters about the safety of new Small, Passive, Modular Reactors (SPMRs) that are just on the horizon and could be in service (here) in two to four years. Doubters linger but the research is clear and will be proven soon.

Compare the cost: A fully functional SPMR generating 27 MW of power could be had for the mere sum of about $30 million. It would sit on a half-acre of land and appear as nothing more than a two-story, four-bedroom home. It would use *no* external resources such as water or chemicals. There would be *no* emissions of any kind, making its "green" footprint smaller than *any* other source of power. The 10-year cost of installing and operating two of these plants would be about $90 million (compare this to CUC at $1.2 billion). Refueling would occur at 10-year intervals and no waste (the expended fuel source) would ever be kept on site. Final cost to the consumer would be about 8 to 10 cents per KwH for the first five years, as construction cost is amortized by its *private* owner/operator, and 5 to 7 cents per KwH after that (including ½ cent per KwH for cost of the next fuel module).

That final residential or business bill alone would draw investors like flies to honey—and our displaced people could come home. There are additional benefits such as production of hydrogen gas and desalinization of ocean water. With hydrogen as a ready and cheap gas, we could convert nearly all modes of transportation on island to this power source, whose only emission would be *water*—not the deadly, toxic exhaust of gasoline. Both Honda and Mercedes are currently manufacturing such vehicles.

By the way, gasoline is now, what, about $4.75 a gallon? The hydrogen produced by added modules on the SPMR plant would cost, if compared as an equivalent to gasoline, about 40 cents per gallon—and the mileage is better too!

I think it's time to work together, to cast off the myth that outsiders are here to somehow destroy the indigenous and its vibrant culture, to have a little trust in one another and to actually become a viable part of the American family—instead of begging handouts, then yelling hands off.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
Winter Haven, Florida

Thank you

Saipan Music & Dance Studio would like to thank all donors who supported us in providing and decorating our float during July 4 Liberation Day Parade.

Thank you to Cargo Express for the flatbed truck, Danielle Barbeque, Food Talk, National Office Supply, TransAmerica, Express Construction &Electric, Coca Cola for the banner, Sweet & Treat Ice Cream, Quick Print, D' Elegance Café, Advance Hex-Pro, Tito Macky for the power supply inverter, Tita Jaye and Tito Diggoy Bautista for the sound speaker, Tito Roger, Tito Arnol, Tita Ester and most of all Tito Ernie Molina our master decorator of the float, our dance instructors, Tito Joel and Kuya Mike Tangcoy, and to the whole untiring support of our parents all throughout the preparation of our float until the end of the parade.

On behalf of my fellow dancers at Saipan Music & Dance Studio, we thank them for their moral and financial support. I am…

Carl James Marquez
Saipan Kidz Legacy

Carl James Marquez

The Saipan Music & Dance Studio

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲84° ▼77°	▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

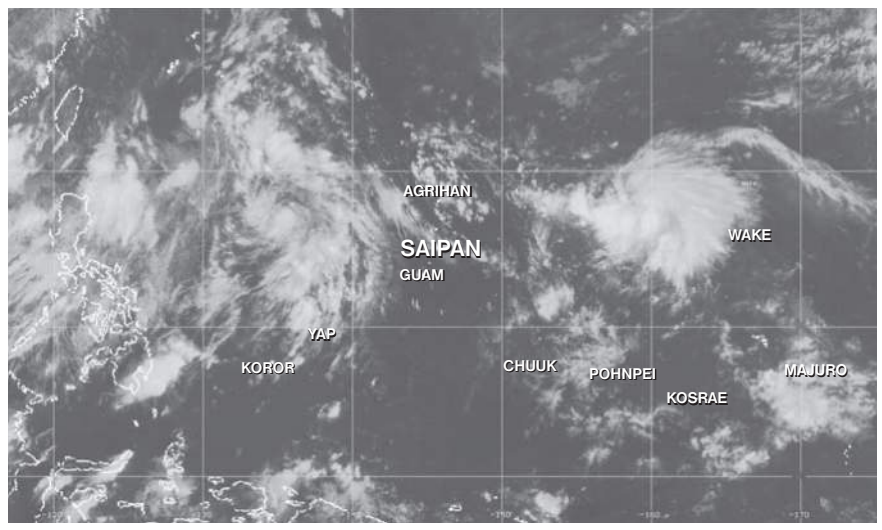
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Sunny	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
London	Showers	▲68	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲94	▼75
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Paris	Rain	▲70	▼55
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲78	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼72
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲81	▼71
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲100	▼81

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 11, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs eastward from the central Philippines to a low-level circulation centered northwest of Koror at 13N132E, then curves northeastward to end at 21N134E. Surface convergence near the circulation and monsoon trough is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Koror and Yap, west of a line from 25N132E to 18N141E to 10N139E. An upper-level low is centered northeast of Saipan at 19N148E. Isolated thunderstorms are occurring near Saipan within 50 miles of a line from 19N142E to 16N145E to 14N150E, and north of Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 11N151E to 13N154E, and finally near Pagan within 70 miles of a line from 21N144E to 18N149E. A surface circulation is centered west of Wake Island near 18N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east and southeast of the circulation center, within an area bounded by a line from 22N162E to 18N166E to 12N162E to 18N153E back to 22N162E. Another circulation is centered just west of Majuro near 16N169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
7:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:05 PM	2:40 AM
Wednesday	5:03 PM	3:37 AM
Thursday	5:58 PM	4:36 AM
Friday	6:47 PM	5:34 AM
Saturday	7:33 PM	6:30 AM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Murdoch flies to UK as paper dies, scandal lives

LONDON (AP)—Rupert Murdoch touched down in London on Sunday to take charge of his media empire's phone-hacking crisis as his best-selling Sunday tabloid, *the News of the World*, published its last. The scandal lives on despite his sacrifice of the 168-year-old paper at the heart of it.

The scrapping of the *News of the World* has not tempered British anger over improprieties by journalists working for Murdoch, and his $19 billion deal to take full control of satellite broadcaster British Sky Broadcasting remains in jeopardy.

The 80-year-old News Corp. CEO was seen reading the paper's last issue in a red Range Rover as he was driven to the east London offices of his U.K. newspaper division, News International. Later, at his London apartment, he met with News International's chief executive, Rebekah Brooks, who led News of the World when its reporters committed some of the most egregious ethical lapses.

Murdoch has publicly backed Brooks, who insists she had no knowledge of wrongdoing. He put his hand on her shoulder as they left the residence about an hour after she arrived; they smiled for the pack of photographers and camera crews gathered outside before walking to a nearby hotel for a meal.

AP

Chairman of News Corporation Rupert Murdoch, right, and his son James Murdoch, chief executive of News Corporation Europe and Asia arrive at his residence in central London, Sunday, July 10, 2011.

The drama gripping media watchers in Britain and beyond has expanded at breakneck pace following allegations News of the World journalists paid police for information and hacked into the voicemails of young murder victims and the grieving families of dead soldiers. Three people have been arrested, including Prime Minister David Cameron's former communications chief.

In its last edition Sunday, the paper issued a full-page apology.

"We praised high standards, we demanded high standards but, as we are now only too painfully aware, for a period of a few years up to 2006 some who worked for us, or in our name, fell shamefully short of those standards," the editorial read. "Quite simply, we lost our way."

Some of the 200 journalists being laid off from *News of the World* appeared to sneak in their own message to Brooks, who kept her job.

Clues in one crossword puzzle included "Brook," "stink," "catastrophe" and "criminal enterprise." A second crossword contained the hints "string of recordings" and what many interpreted to be a direct jab at Brooks: "Woman stares wildly at calamity."

The answer to that clue? "Disaster."

The paper's demise does not end the questions surrounding Murdoch's media conglomerate, which has been hugely influential in British politics for years. Chief among them: What did Murdoch, Brooks and other executives know about the actions of News of the World journalists?

The Guardian newspaper reported Sunday that emails and memos from 2007 only recently turned over to police indicate News International was aware that phone hacking was more widespread than publicly acknowledged. The BBC reported that News International had found emails at the same time period that suggested payments were being made to police for information.

How bad is it? Pawn shops, payday lenders are hot

NEW YORK (AP)—As the jobless rate inches up and the economic recovery sputters, investors looking for a few good stocks may want to follow the money—or rather the TV, the beloved Fender guitar, the baubles from grandma, the wedding ring.

Profits at pawn shop operator Ezcorp Inc. have jumped by an average 46 percent annually for five years. The stock has doubled from a year ago, to about $38. And the Wall Street pros who analyze the company think it will go higher yet. All seven of them are telling investors to buy the Austin, Texas, company.

Is the economy still just in a soft patch? A hard patch? Will the market rise or drop? Even experts are just guessing. In investing, it's often better to focus on what you can safely predict, even if that safety is found in companies that thrive on hard times. One good bet: The jobless aren't likely to find work anytime soon. And companies profiting from their bad fortune will continue to do so.

Among them:

■ Stock in payday lender Advance America Cash Advance Centers (AEA) has doubled from a year ago, to just under $8. Rival Cash America International Inc. (CSH) is up 64 percent, to $58. Such firms typically provide high interest loans—due on payday—to people who can't borrow from traditional lenders.

■ Profits at Encore Capital Group, a debt collector that targets people with unpaid credit cards bills and other debts, rose nearly 50 percent last year. Encore has faced class action suits in several states, including California, over its collection practices. The Minnesota attorney general filed a suit in March. No matter. The stock (ECPG) is up 59 percent from a year ago, to more than $30.

■ Stock in Rent-A-Center (RCII), which leases televisions, couches, computers and more, is up 57 percent from a year ago to nearly $32. Nine of the 11 analysts covering the company say it will rise further and that investors should buy it.

The idea of investing in companies catering to the hard-up might not be palatable to some people. But it is profitable.

Breaks for nursing mothers

Question: I just recently had a baby (a beautiful little girl!) and I wondered if there was any law that allowed me time-off to breastfeed my baby?

Congratulations on your new daughter! However, the answer to your question is no—there is no law that allows you time-off to breastfeed your baby—but don't stop reading. There is a recent amendment to the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) that does require your employer to allow you work breaks to express your milk for your little girl. For male, non-parent, readers, "express" means to pump breast milk—not to describe it eloquently.

This amendment to the FLSA became effective when the health care reform bill was signed on March 23, 2010, to become law as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Section 4207 of the law amended Section 7 of the FLSA by adding the following at the end of the provision:

(r)(1) An employer shall provide—

(A) a reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk for her nursing child for 1 year after the child's birth each time such employee has need to express the milk; and

(B) a place, other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public, which may be used by an employee to express breast milk.

(2) An employer shall not be required to compensate an employee receiving reasonable break time under paragraph (1) for any work time spent for such purpose.

(3) An employer that employs less than 50 employees shall not be subject to the requirements of this subsection, if such requirements would impose an undue hardship by causing the employer significant difficulty or expense when considered in relation to the size, financial resources, nature, or structure of the employer's business.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall preempt a State law that provides greater protections to employees than the protections provided for under this subsection.

Again—don't stop reading. Laws are never as simple as they seem, so let's look at each point:

(r)(1)(A) The law doesn't define the term "reasonable break time," nor does it place a number on how many times the "employee has need to express milk." The amount of time that a mother will need to pump milk each time will vary for each individual, as will the number of times each day. Both of these need to be worked out through positive communication between the employee and the employer. As a guide, the federal government's source for women's health information, WomensHealth.gov, provides the following guidance to nursing mothers in the workplace: Express milk for 10-15 minutes approximately 2-3 times during a typical eight-hour work period.

Although the FLSA does not otherwise require rest breaks, 15-20 minute rest breaks are common in most workplaces and should provide sufficient time for pumping and travel time to and from the lactation room. Again, this is a guide only. The law is not specific regarding time-length or number of occasions.

(B)The employer does not have to dedicate a special room for the nursing mother to express milk, but one MUST be available when the employee needs it. The room must provide privacy (either lockable or with a sign that indicates it is in use) and a clean site for lactation. As the law and USDOL Fact Sheet #73 state, it cannot be a bathroom. Reasonably, the room should have a chair, table, and access to electricity to operate the breast pump. The mother will also need access to clean water and to a hygienic refrigerator to store the milk.

(2) Although the time spent in expressing milk does not have to be paid, if an employer as a matter of practice or policy does give rest breaks, these would be considered work time by the FLSA and the USDOL states, "where employers already provide compensated breaks, an employee who uses break time to express milk must be compensated in the same way that other employees are compensated for break time." If an employee is compensated for short breaks to smoke or use the restroom, a nursing mother-employee would be entitled to the same compensation to express breast milk. However, if the number of breaks for expressing milk exceeds those provided to other employees, the extra breaks need not be paid. However, the employer can elect to do so.

(3) Although the law states that employers with less than 50 employees, and that's less than 50 employees total over all work-sites, are exempted if providing this benefit would cause an undue hardship, bear in mind that the burden of proving that hardship is on the employer, and is not automatic. Employers are recommended to check with their attorney before denying the benefit. The 50 also includes employees assigned to third party employers or joint employers.

(4) The CNMI does not have any laws relative to nursing mothers. One was proposed as a bill in 2000 but was not enacted into law.

Let me make a few other relevant points. The law does not provide for the presence of the infant in the workplace for breastfeeding, only for the expressing of milk, and only applies while the child is less than 12 months of age.

As you have surely noted, this benefit is provided by the FLSA. This law applies only to FLSA covered and overtime eligible employees, whether covered on an enterprise or individual basis. If they are assigned to a third-party site, the employer of record is still responsible for ensuring the employee receives the benefit at the work-site. If the employee is jointly employed by two or more employers and one is FLSA covered, the employee is covered for the benefit. Businesses should double check their FLSA status and that of their individual employees who handle credit cards and other forms of interstate commerce.

Those employees who are exempt from the FLSA are not covered by this law or provided the benefit. However, as overtime exempt employees usually have greater flexibility with work schedules and, as salaried employees, cannot be deducted for short absences, they should discuss their need with their employer.

The Human Resource Officer should take the lead in ensuring that this new provision of the FLSA is complied with and that nursing mother employees should receive the full benefit of the law. Policies and handbooks may need to be updated and employees informed of their right to the benefit. Employers should recognize that there are benefits in providing this benefit, in addition to not having visits from the USDOL, in that breast-fed babies are generally healthier, which will lessen the time a mother will need to take off from work, and that this benefit will relieve the stress on a nursing mother, both psychologically and physically, allowing her to perform her work more efficiently.

The USDOL Wage and Hour fact sheet can be accessed at: http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/ compliance/whdfs73.htm

Again, congratulations on your new daughter.

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, a Saipan-based training and consulting firm, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 15 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

Nation

Shuttle's last hookup: Hugs, kisses and emotion

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—As the miles melted between Atlantis and the International Space Station, the emotions grew—in orbit and on the ground.

At Mission Control on Sunday, lead flight director Kwatsi Alibaruho declared "this is it" as he gave the OK for the final docking in space shuttle history. Flashbacks to the shuttle's very first space station docking—with Russia's Mir in 1995—flooded his mind as viewed the shuttle on the screens. He was a NASA trainee back then.

About 240 miles above the Pacific, the station's naval bell chimed a salute—one of many landmarks, or rather spacemarks, of this final two-week shuttle mission that are being savored one by one.

"Atlantis arriving," called out space station astronaut Ronald Garan Jr. "Welcome to the International Space Station for the last time."

"And it's great to be here," replied shuttle commander Christopher Ferguson.

Cries of joy and laughter filled the connected vessels once the hatches swung open and the two crews—10 space fliers altogether representing three countries—exchanged hugs, handshakes and kisses on the cheek. Cameras floated everywhere, recording every moment of the last-of-its-kind festivities.

Atlantis, carrying a year's worth of supplies, is being retired after this flight, the last of the 30-year shuttle program.

"I won't say that I got close to welling up in the eyes, but I will say that it was a powerful moment for me," Alibaruho later told reporters. He tried to keep his feelings discreet so as not to distract his team of flight controllers, but said, "I know they were all feeling very similar emotions, thinking about where we've come from, how much we've accomplished ... what's coming next."

Alibaruho said the moment was also powerful for the 10 people in space for the docking: six Americans, three Russians and one Japanese.

"You could sense a palpable increase in emotion from all of the crew members, not just our U.S. astronauts," he said. "They were extremely happy and really elated to see their visitors, and I know that they really recognize and appreciate the significance of these moments."

A computer failure aboard Atlantis took away some of the redundancy desired for the rendezvous, but did not hamper the operation.

Within a few hours, though, news came that NASA was monitoring a piece of space junk that could come dangerously close to the orbiting shuttle-station complex on Tuesday—right in the middle of a spacewalk.

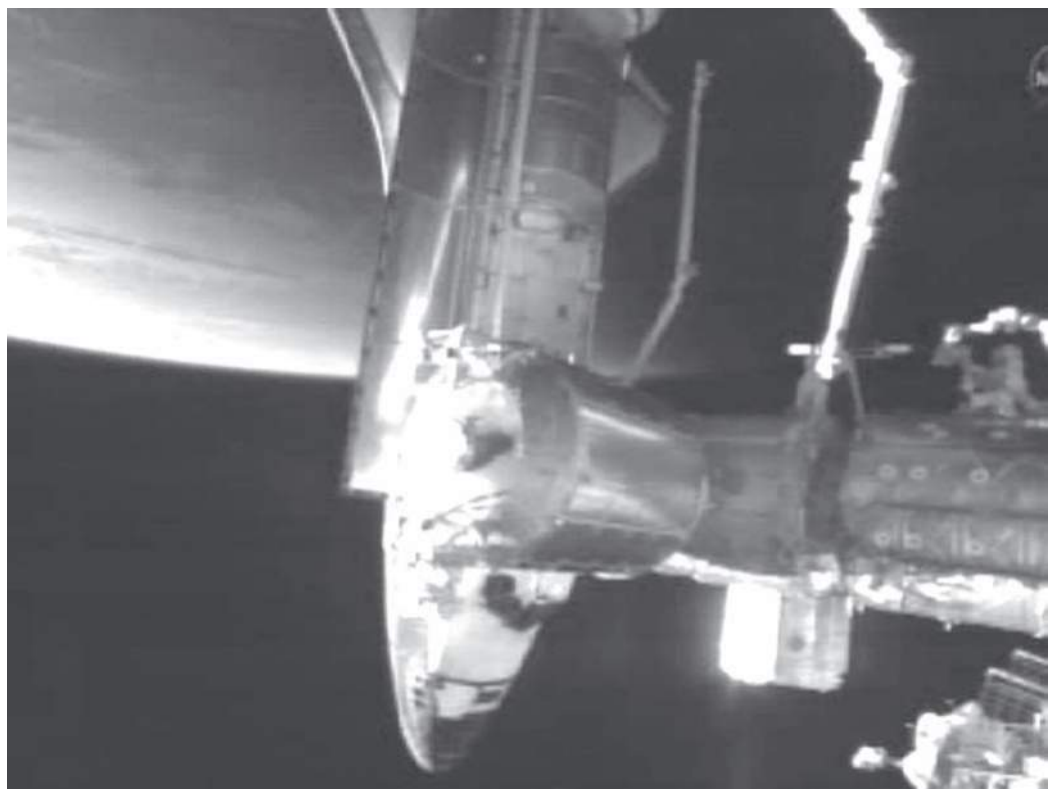
Mission management team chairman LeRoy Cain stressed it was still too soon to know whether the unidentified object would truly pose a threat, and that a decision would be made Monday as to whether the linked spacecraft would have to move out of harm's way. The size of the object was not immediately known.

This was the 46th docking by a space shuttle to a space station.

Nine of those were to Mir back in the 1990s, with Atlantis making the very first. The U.S. and Russia built on that sometimes precarious experience to create, along with a dozen other nations, the world's largest spacecraft ever: the permanently inhabited, finally completed, 12 1/2-year-old International Space Station.

This time, Atlantis is delivering more than 5 tons of food, clothes and other space station provisions—an entire year's worth, in fact, to keep the complex going in the looming post-shuttle era.

The shuttle astronauts quickly handed over a bag of groceries loaded with fresh fruit and promised the station residents some extra jars of peanut butter. "Outstanding," said inhabitant Michael Fossum.

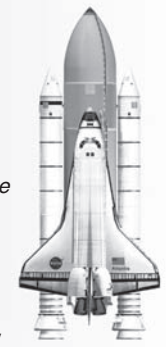


AP

This frame grab from NASA-TV shows space shuttle Atlantis docked at the International Space Station, Sunday, July 10, 2011.

Shuttle mission

Atlantis lifted off on its maiden voyage Oct. 3, 1985, and will have its 33rd and final launch July 8.



Scheduled length

- 12 days, one day may be added
- One spacewalk

Objective

- Deliver Raffaello multi-purpose logistics module; filled with supplies, spare parts to sustain operations aboard the station
- Bring back unused or broken materials from the space station; shuttle estimated to be 80 percent full upon return; if a day is added to mission will be 100 percent full

Back-up plan

- No shuttles available on standby for potential rescue
- Only four astronauts assigned to mission; in the event of serious damage to shuttle, the four would move into the station and return one at a time over the course of a year via Russian Soyuz capsules

Source: NASA

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Verdict brought few answers in Caylee Anthony case

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Many of the thousands who followed the Casey Anthony trial did not get the guilty verdict they wanted, nor did they learn the truth about what happened to the 2-year-old daughter she was accused of murdering.

And for the public, that may be one of the most frustrating parts of the case: Despite all the speculation and theories, they will never know how or why Caylee Anthony died.

"I think we know as much as we ever will know," said Beth Hough, a 27-year-old administrative assistant from Chicago who followed the trial. "We don't know exactly what happened, but if we did, it would help people to finally just move on and to end the story."

That's what's missing: an ending. And because we're so used to neatly packaged, hour-long TV crime dramas where the bad guy is usually put behind bars, the fact Anthony could be convicted only of lying to police has left people unsatisfied. And they have been vocal about their dismay, turning to Twitter and Facebook to vent their frustration.

So what's left? Some fuzzy defense claims that little Caylee drowned and that her grandfather tried to make an accident look like a homicide.

"One of the quite healthy and appropriate satisfactions we get out of a well-functioning justice system is the belief that the justice system will give us the best answers to questions," said Doug Berman, a law professor at Ohio State University.

A little girl ended up dead in the woods near her grandparents' home with duct tape over her mouth, and her mother didn't report her disappearance for more than a month. But how did Caylee die?

That's where it gets complicated.

The defense said Caylee drowned in the family's swimming pool. Prosecutors couldn't say how Caylee died because the girl's body was too decomposed to harvest DNA or other forensic evidence. So the state relied on circumstantial evidence: the trunk of Casey's car smelled like a dead body to some witnesses; someone did an internet search for chloroform—a chemical that can be used to knock someone unconscious—at the Anthony home; and there was duct tape on Caylee's skull when it was found six months after she was last seen in June 2008.

Questions swirl after vet falls from NY coaster

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—A 208-foot-tall roller coaster in upstate New York remained closed Sunday amid questions about the falling death of an Iraq war veteran who lost both his legs to a roadside bomb and the decision to allow him on the ride.

Sgt. James Thomas Hackemer was ejected Friday from the Ride of Steel coaster at Darien Lake Theme Park Resort, located between Buffalo and Rochester.

Amusement park industry consultant Dennis Speigel said two things should be considered when determining whether someone should be allowed on a ride.

""One is rider responsibility and then there is operator responsibility, and those two issues have to homogenize," Speigel said Sunday. "This just seems to me that it was a bad decision on both parts."

Hackemer's relatives have said they don't hold the park responsible for his death.

"It's nobody's fault. It was an accident. James thought it wasn't an issue," Jody Hackemer said over the weekend of her brother's disability.

She said her brother had had recently returned from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he was fitted with a new set of prosthetic legs. Jody Hackemer said she did not believe he was wearing the prostheses on the roller coaster.

Rules posted on the park's website for the Ride of Steel say guests with "certain body proportions" may not be able to ride it, but it doesn't give specifics. The rules specifically bar people without both legs from riding at least two other coasters in the park, the Motocoaster and the Predator.

Although an investigation of the accident is incomplete, Speigel, who is not involved in the probe, wondered whether Hackemer's military service played a role in the decision to allow the ride.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hypnotist principal faces questions after suicides

NORTH PORT, Fla. (AP)—High school principal George Kenney acknowledged using hypnosis to help people: students who needed to relax before tests, a basketball player having trouble making free throws and even school secretaries who wanted to quit smoking. But now the popular 51-year-old principal's future at North Port High School is in question since it came to light that he had hypnotized two students before their separate suicides this spring. There is no indication their deaths were any more than a tragic coincidence. However, Kenney acknowledged conducting the sessions after being warned by his boss to stop such one-on-one hypnosis with students at school.

Family of 7 killed when plane crashes in Alabama

DEMOPOLIS, Ala. (AP)—A small plane crashed in Alabama after one of its engines failed, killing a family of seven onboard, authorities said Sunday. Marengo County Coroner Stuart Eatmon said a couple and their five young children were returning to Florida from a family reunion in St. Louis when the crash happened Saturday night. They tried landing the Cessna C421 at an airport in Demopolis after it lost its right engine, Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Holly Baker said in an email. The plane crashed in a densely wooded area near the airport.

Boat smacks concrete, sinks in NY; 4 die, 2 hurt

RED HOOK, N.Y. (AP)—A powerboat struck a concrete abutment along the Hudson River and sank before sunrise Sunday, killing four occupants and seriously injuring two others, authorities said. Six people were aboard the 19-foot boat when it rammed into concrete footing not far from the shore line near Red Hook, about 45 miles south of Albany, according to Lt. John Watterson of the Dutchess County sheriff's office. The boat was seriously damaged and began to sink in the shallow water. The body of 26-year-old John J. Uvino of Saugerties was found in the water, and it appeared he was thrown from the boat on impact, Watterson said. Divers recovered the bodies of three other boaters: Robert P. Macarthur, 27, of Kingston; Deena C. Cordero, 26, of Kingston; and Jay J. Bins, 41, of Kingston.

Asia

More bodies pulled from India train wreckage

Tough line: US suspends military aid to Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's decision to suspend $800 million in aid to the Pakistan's military signals a tougher U.S. line with a critical but sometimes unreliable partner in the fight against terrorism.

President Barack Obama's chief of staff, William Daley, said in a broadcast interview Sunday that the estranged relationship between the United States and Pakistan must be made "to work over time," but until it does, "we'll hold back some of the money that the American taxpayers are committed to give" to the country's powerful military forces.

The suspension of U.S. aid, first reported by The New York Times, followed a statement last week by Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, that Pakistan's security services may have sanctioned the killing of Pakistani journalist Saleem Shahzad, who wrote about infiltration of the military by extremists. His battered body was found in June.

The allegation was rejected by Pakistan's powerful military establishment, including the Inter-Services Intelligence Agency, which has historic ties to the Taliban and other militant groups and which many Western analysts regard as a state-within-a-state.

George Perkovich, an expert on Pakistan with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, said Mullen's comments and the suspension of aid represent "the end of happy talk," where the U.S. tries to paper over differences between the two nations.

Daley, interviewed on ABC's "This Week," suggested the decision to suspend military aid resulted from the increasing estrangement between the U.S. and Pakistan. "Obviously there's still a lot of pain that the political system in Pakistan is feeling by virtue of the raid that we did to get Osama bin Laden," Daley said.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told reporters traveling with him to Afghanistan on Saturday that the U.S. would continue to press Pakistan in the fight against extremists, including al-Qaida's new leader, Ayman al-Zawahri.

"We have to continue to emphasize with the Pakistanis that in the end it's in their interest to be able to go after these targets as well," Panetta said. "And in the discussions I've had with them, I have to say that, you know, they're giving us cooperation in going after some of these targets. We've got to continue to push them to do that. That's key."

The U.S. has long been unhappy with Pakistan's evident lack of enthusiasm for carrying the fight against terrorists to its tribal areas, as well as its covert support for the Taliban and anti-Indian extremist groups.

But tensions ratcheted up in January, when CIA security contractor Raymond Davis shot and killed two Pakistanis who he said were trying to rob him. They spiked in May, when U.S. forces killed bin Laden during a covert raid on a home in Abbottabad, the location of Pakistan's military academy.

In the U.S., there was anger at the possibility that some Pakistan officials had harbored the terrorist leader. In Pakistan, there was outrage that the U.S. operation had violated its sovereignty.

The $800 million in suspended aid represents 40 percent of the $2 billion in U.S. military aid to Pakistan, and according to the Times includes money for counterterror operations.

The report said some of the money represented equipment that can't be set up for training because Pakistan won't give visas to the trainers. About $300 million was intended to reimburse Pakistan for the cost of deploying 100,000 troops along the Afghan border, the newspaper said.

A senior U.S. official confirmed that the suspension came in response to the Pakistani army's decision to significantly reduce the number of visas for U.S. military trainers. "We remain committed to helping Pakistan build its capabilities, but we have communicated to Pakistani officials on numerous occasions that we require certain support in order to provide certain assistance," a senior U.S. official told The Associated Press. The official was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently told senators that "when it comes to our military aid, we are not prepared to continue providing that at the pace we were providing it unless we see certain steps taken."

California Rep. Howard Berman, the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said Sunday that he agreed with the administration's decision.

FATEHPUR, India (AP)—Rescue workers pulled more bodies Monday from the mangled wreckage of a passenger train that derailed in northern India, as the death toll climbed to 67.

Many more bodies were believed trapped under the twisted coaches, and soldiers were using gas cutters to slice through the metal, said Col. Amarjit Dhillon, a senior army official in charge of rescue operations.

The cause of Sunday afternoon's derailment near the town of Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh state was not immediately known, but newspaper reports said the driver of the Kalka Mail slammed on the train's emergency brakes to save some cattle squatting on the tracks.

Railway authorities were investigating the cause of the accident, said H.C. Joshi, a senior railway official.

Volunteers and soldiers worked through the night to pull many of the more than 100 injured from the train's 12 shattered coaches. Officials said the train was carrying about 1,000 passengers, but the exact number was not known.

At least one coach flew above the roof of another ahead of it and was dangling precariously, while another coach was thrown away from the rest of the train.

"It's a difficult operation. Two cranes are being used to pull up the coach," Dhillon said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of miles (kilometers) to the northeast, police said a militant group was suspected of triggering a bomb that led to the derailment of another train, also on Sunday.

G. P. Singh, inspector-general of police, said the Adivasi Peoples' Army was suspected of triggering the bomb.

More than 50 passengers were injured when the train derailed, and the condition of four of them was critical, police said.

The Kalka Mail train, the first to derail, was on its way to Kalka, in the foothills of the Himalayas, from Howrah, a station near Kolkata in eastern India.

Train services across northern India have been disrupted as railroad authorities work to clear the tracks. At least 62 trains had been diverted to other routes and many others have been canceled, said S. Mathur, a railway official.

India's railroad network is one of the largest in the world and carries about 14 million passengers each day. Accidents are common, with most blamed on poor maintenance and human error.

AP

In this picture taken late Sunday, July 10, 2011, the wrapped bodies of passengers recovered from the wreckage of a train that derailed are laid out before being transported to the mortuary at the scene near the town of Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh state, India.

Turkmenistan says 15 people dead after explosion

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (AP)—The authoritarian government of Turkmenistan said Sunday that 15 people died after a large explosion rocked a town outside the Turkmen capital earlier this week and lashed out at the coverage of the blast by the Russian media.

The government press service said two soldiers and 13 civilians died as a result of the explosion in Abadan, a town 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the capital, Ashgabat.

The blasts, which began late on Thursday and went on until early Friday, were caused by overheating at a fireworks warehouse that triggered further blasts at a military depot where outdated, Soviet-made ammunition was kept, the press service said in a statement.

An amateur, low-resolution video posted Sunday on a social networking site, however, appears to demonstrate the incident was the result of high explosives detonating. It showed a giant black plume of smoke rising after a blast accompanied by a loud bang and people and cars rushing away from the site.

The video was broadcast by Russian television and posted on independent websites critical of Turkmenistan's government. Russian media claimed dozens died and were wounded during the explosions.

Although websites critical of Turkmen authorities are filtered in Turkmenistan, many are able to watch Russian television channels via numerous satellite dishes that dot every apartment building.

The Turkmen Foreign Ministry said in a statement Sunday that Russian television reports about the scale of deaths and destruction are misleading and inaccurate.

Meanwhile, a human rights group said nearly 200 people have died in the blast. About a half of them are military officers and servicemen, said Khronika Turkmenistana, a website run by Vienna-based Turkmen dissident Farid Tukhbatullin.

It cited unnamed locals who also claimed that authorities detained anyone who was trying to take pictures or videos of the debris in Abadan.

Online satellite images show that a large munitions dump is located at the approximate site of the blast, around half a kilometer from apartment blocks.

Abadan is the site of a gas-fired power plant that acts as a major electricity supplier to Ashgabat. Power supplies to the capital failed sporadically Thursday evening.

Arms depot explosions are not unusual across the ex-Soviet Central Asia.

In July 2008, a fire spread to a Soviet-era military base in a town in neighboring Uzbekistan, setting off a chain of blasts that lasted for hours.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH church apologizes for donation scandal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Roman Catholic Church leaders in the Philippines apologized to their followers Monday for a scandal involving allegedly illegal donations to bishops. The government's lotto operator is accused of making donations from the government's charity funds in exchange for political favors from bishops friendly to ex-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has said the controversy deeply wounded the church and the bishops are sorry for the pain and sadness caused to church members. A pastoral letter issued Monday assured that bishops concerned are ready to face consequences if their actions are proven illegal. Philippine lawmakers began investigating the allegations last week

Top US military official in China to improve ties

BEIJING (AP)—The top military officers from China and the United States are meeting in an attempt to improve relations amid tensions in the disputed South China Sea. The visit to China by Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the first of its kind in four years. Mullen and top Chinese general Chen Bingde are trying to improve military-to-military ties after setbacks over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, cyberattacks traced to China and concern about Beijing's military plans. Chen, the chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, met Mullen on Monday at the army headquarters in Beijing.

21 workers trapped in flooded Chinese mine

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say 21 workers are trapped in a flooded mine in eastern China in the country's fourth serious mining disaster in the last 10 days. The official Xinhua News Agency said Monday that water flooded a pit in Weifang city in Shandong province late Sunday. It says seven workers in the pit managed to escape but the fate of 21 others is not known. Rescuers are still searching for 63 miners trapped from three other incidents, some for as long as nine days.

World

Libya shows tough face against rebel mountain push

GHARYAN, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's regime sought Sunday to show it remains in control of parts of the country's western mountains and will defend the territory against further rebel advances there.

The Nafusa mountains southwest of Tripoli have become a key battleground in the rebels' fight to oust the longtime Libyan leader, with small bands of fighters inching closer to the capital by seizing villages along major roads snaking across the rugged highland terrain.

Forces loyal to Gadhafi are also battling rebels on two major front lines to the east of the capital, but neither side has been able to mount a major push.

Journalists based in Gadhafi's stronghold of Tripoli were taken by government officials Sunday to the mountain gateway town of Gharyan and the nearby town of al-Assabaa, where they were shown armed civilians and government troops who vowed to defend their land.

"All the people here, like other Libyans, they are armed," said Hamooda Mokhtar al-Salem, a top government official in al-Assabaa.

A portrait of Gadhafi was perched on the table in front of him, and a Kalashnikov rifle rested against the wall. "We are ready to fight to protect our land, our leader ... our children. NATO cannot scare us," he told reporters.

AP

A rebel flashes a V-sign as he returns from the frontline to the rebel-held Ajdabiya , Libya, Saturday, July 9, 2011.

A crowd outside the government building where he spoke chanted pro-Gadhafi slogans and shot bursts of automatic fire into the air.

The towns lie down a mountain road not far from a village rebels said they seized last week. Gharyan is the bigger of the two and is the last mountain town along a highway that leads straight to the capital Tripoli, just 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the north.

In Gharyan, a small group of women practiced firing automatic rifles and unloading grenade launchers. They were far outnumbered by visiting journalists.

Tripoli-based foreign journalists are routinely accompanied by government minders whose presence makes it difficult for people to speak freely. Government-arranged trips tend to be carefully orchestrated.

Still, there were signs of resistance in Gharyan. In numerous spots, graffiti appeared to be hastily painted over—apparently covering anti-government slogans. Fragments remained though. The words "Libya free" were visibly scrawled in Arabic and English in at least two locations.

Portraits of Gadhafi—ubiquitous in Tripoli and other regime strongholds—were only seen on the government building where the women trained with weapons.

Several residents who agreed to talk with journalists appeared nervous because of the presence of government officials, their hands shaking as they spoke with reporters.

Some acknowledged there was support for the rebels in the town, though none said they knew sympathizers personally.

"You'll find these people inside Gharyan, but they can't do anything," said vegetable seller Bahloun Ibrahim Ashouh, 55. "It's hard to find them."

NATO appears to be ramping up its strikes in the western mountains. It said Sunday it hit a rocket launcher and a tank in Gharyan the previous day, along with other targets in the region.

On Wednesday, rebels claimed to have taken the mountain village of Qawalish, which sits about 10 miles (16 kilometers) by winding mountain road from al-Assabaa. Gharyan is about 12 miles (20 kilometers) further away.

Libya's deputy foreign minister, Khaled Kaim, last week accused NATO of intensifying its bombing campaign, including in the western mountains, to lay the groundwork for a rebel advance toward the capital. He said the alliance targeted police checkpoints in the mountains before the rebel advance on Qawalish.

NATO denies that it is using its air power to intentionally aid rebel advances.

NATO began airstrikes against Libya in March. The coalition and its Arab allies are operating under a U.N. mandate to protect civilians.

Some countries in the coalition have interpreted that mandate broadly, with France acknowledging it has provided weapons to rebels operating in the mountains and other countries providing non-lethal aid to rebel-held areas.

Syrian VP calls for transition to democracy

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's vice president on Sunday called for a transition to democracy in a country ruled for four decades by an authoritarian family dynasty, crediting mass protests with forcing the regime to consider reforms while also warning against further demonstrations.

Vice President Farouk al-Sharaa spoke at a national dialogue that opened Sunday, with some critics of the government in attendance. However, key opposition figures driving the four-month-old uprising boycotted the meeting, saying they refuse to talk until a deadly crackdown on protesters ends.

"I hope that we will reach ... transition to a pluralistic democratic state that enjoys equality for all citizens who participate in forming their own shining future," al-Sharaa said at the start of two days of talks in the capital, Damascus.

His comments highlighted the extent to which the uprising has shaken President Bashar Assad, who inherited power from his father in 2000. While Assad himself has acknowledged the need for reforms in recent weeks, the high-level call for multiparty democracy was remarkable.

Still, al-Sharaa also made thinly veiled threats against the protesters and suggested some received direction from abroad.

"Arabs will not obtain their goals if they rely on foreigners," al-Sharaa said. "Unauthorized protests that lead to unwanted violence will cause the fall of more civilians and soldiers," he said.

Such a carrot-and-stick approach reflects the Syrian regime's policy of using both brute force and tentative promises of reform to try to quell the uprising, which was inspired by the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt. Some 1,600 civilians and 350 members of security forces have been killed since demonstrations began, activists say.

Senior opposition figures and activists driving some protests boycotted the meeting.

"They are blockading (restive) cities, and killing demonstrators, arresting people and torturing people to death," said Omar Idilbi, a spokesman for a loose network of anti-government activists. "That cannot create a good environment for dialogue."

Al-Sharaa acknowledged that the promise of reforms would not have come without the uprising.

"It must be recognized, that without the blood sacrificed by civilians and soldiers ... this national dialogue would not have been held, at this high level of supervision, under the lens of cameras," he said.

In a rare acknowledgment of the regime's mistakes, al-Sharaa said demonstrations were triggered by "a great deal of mistakes ... that we swept under our carpets, without thinking deeply about the upcoming days."

Bolivian leader: Hugo Chavez's health improving

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez appears to have made it through his most difficult moments and is improving after undergoing surgery to remove a cancerous tumor, Bolivian leader Evo Morales said Sunday.

Morales, a close ally of Chavez who visited him in Caracas last week, remarked on the Venezuelan leader's health after attending Bolivia's soccer match against Colombia at the Copa America tournament in Argentina.

"He's very well, very well," Morales told Colombian radio station Caracol. "He has told us it was a very difficult situation for him, but he has survived the bad moment, the worst. As always, under the control of his doctors."

Likening the goal of Chavez's recovery to being like a new car, Morales said: "From here on, soon President Chavez will be at zero kilometers."

Chavez has said he underwent surgery in Cuba on June 20 to remove a cancerous tumor. His foreign minister said it was extracted from the same part of the "pelvic region" where Chavez had an abscess removed nine days earlier.

Chavez

Chavez hasn't said what type of cancer is involved. Since his return to Chavez on July 4, he has slowed his normally heavy agenda and has limited the length of his televised speeches, saying he is under strict orders from his doctors.

Asked if Chavez appeared concerned or calm, Morales told Caracol: "No, calm, very calm. ... Strengthened."

After his initial days of recovery from the surgery, Chavez "got out of this situation," Morales said. "For that reason, I'm very happy after seeing President Chavez."

Morales met with Chavez during Venezuela's bicentennial celebrations last week, along with the presidents of Paraguay and Uruguay.

Another ally of Chavez, former Venezuelan Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel, said in an interview with the Colombian magazine Semana that "for the moment he's not going to need chemo."

"The tumor they removed was encapsulated. I know that the cancer he has is not of the colon," Rangel was quoted as saying.

Rangel, who no longer holds a government office and now hosts a weekly television program, did not elaborate on how he had learned about Chavez's condition nor on what type of cancer he believes the president has.

Chavez did not speak on his usual Sunday radio and television program, but his Twitter account remained active with new messages. In one, he praised a government housing program: "Social justice! This is the greatest reason of my life!"

In another, he said: "Happy Sunday to all of Venezuela! ... Here Chavez the patient! We will live and we will win!"

WORLD BRIEFS

9 dead, more than 90 missing in Volga boat sinking

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian officials say nine bodies have been recovered from the Volga River after an overloaded cruise boat sank, but about 90 other people who were on the half-century-old vessel are still missing. The two-deck cruise vessel was carrying 185 people—148 of them passengers going for a scenic trip on Russia's most famous river—when it sank on Sunday. The boat was certified to carry a maximum of 120 people.

17 killed during security operation in Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—A military official on Sunday said that 17 people, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed during a military and police operation against a radical Muslim sect in Nigeria's restive northeast. Maj. Gen. Jack Nwachukwu Nwaogbo told journalists in the city of Maiduguri that a 13-year-old boy, five other civilians and 11 suspected members of a radical sect locally known as Boko Haram were killed during the operation on Saturday evening. He declined to comment on how they died.

Peru police say missing Polish couple slain

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Police said Sunday that they have arrested a farmer and are searching for two more men in the slaying of a Polish couple who disappeared in late May while kayaking on a jungle river in northeastern Peru. The detained man told investigators that the three Peruvians were drunk when they killed the couple, Orlando del Aguila, chief of police of Ucayali province. He told The Associated Press by telephone that authorities were searching for the bodies of Jaroslaw Frackiewicz, 70, and his wife, Celina Mroz, 58, in the Ucayali River.

Focus

Flixster co-founder Joe Greenstein, pictured May 26, 2011, recently sold his company to Time Warner for about $80 million, but he says he doesn't anticipate any changes to his modest life, which includes a Toyota Prius and a studio apartment in San Francisco, California.
LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

In Silicon Valley, STATUS SYMBOLS look different

By JESSICA GUYNN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

PALO ALTO, Calif.—Aaron Patzer lives in a 600-square-foot, one-bedroom apartment in Palo Alto with an old couch and TV. His favorite shoes are hand-me-down brown leather wingtips that, at 39, are older than he is. He gets $12 haircuts.

He drove a 1996 Ford Contour until he ran it into the ground at 150,000 miles. His new ride is a Subaru Outback that he bought for $29,000.

You'd never know the 30-year-old entrepreneur sold his Internet startup for $170 million in 2009 or that he is now a top executive at Intuit Inc., the financial software company.

With a few notable exceptions, Silicon Valley's rising young stars are rejecting the traditional symbols of status: fast cars, yachts, luxury homes. To make their mark, they're putting their wealth into social causes and start-up ventures.

"Wealth needs a purpose greater than big houses and flashy cars," said Patzer, founder of Mint.com, which helps people manage their money.

It's more about creating technology that millions will use than making millions of dollars, they say. Their aim is to keep up with Steve Jobs, not the Joneses.

At 27, Dustin Moskovitz is the world's youngest billionaire, according to Forbes. He was born eight days after his Harvard College roommate Mark Zuckerberg, with whom he founded Facebook.

Moskovitz could afford any home he wanted, but he chose an $800,000 condo in San Francisco. He bikes to work at his tiny start-up, Asana, which is making social networking tools for businesses. He leaves his Volkswagen R32 hatchback in the garage.

He says he flies coach, and he's socking away money to fund his philanthropic foundation. Like Zuckerberg, he has pledged to give away his wealth during his lifetime.

"Things can't bring you happiness," Moskovitz said. "I have pictured myself owning expensive things and easily came to the conclusion that I would not have a materially more meaningful life because of them."

Zuckerberg is another billionaire living below his means. For years, he crashed in a tiny apartment with a mattress on the floor and dial-up Internet access. He recently bought his first house in Palo Alto for $7 million, a fraction of what he could afford.

Zuckerberg, who has listed "minimalism" and "eliminating desire" as interests on his Facebook profile, drives an Acura. His one major outlay: Last year he donated $100 million to help improve public schools in Newark, N.J., among the country's worst-performing school systems.

Skeptics may wonder whether all this conspicuous self-denial is scripted. Tech titans know they score public relations points by showing a common touch—particularly in austere times.

But the evidence suggests that it's not an act, according to Alice Marwick, a researcher with Microsoft Corp. whose New York University doctoral dissertation in media studies was about social status among the Internet set.

It's not that this new generation of tech entrepreneurs doesn't seek status, Marwick said. They just seek it in different ways.

"This is not a community that values good looks, visible wealth or having a hot body. Those are not the ways that they distinguish high status from low status," Marwick said. "Technology millionaires don't hobnob with celebrities or buy a fancy car. They travel to Thailand, or they fund an incubator. These things are just as expensive, but that's the classic hacker ethos that prizes the mind, not materials."

The hacker ethos is also classically male. "Being concerned with appearance, shopping for clothes and decorating your house are feminine values. Tech millionaires see that type of spending as silly and frivolous," Marwick said.

Silicon Valley measures achievement by what entrepreneurs build, not what they buy.

"You do not need to have an Aston Martin in the driveway," said Drew Houston, the 28-year-old chief executive and co-founder of Dropbox, a San Francisco start-up that helps its 25 million users worldwide store and share photos, videos and documents. "It's more important to have the freedom and the independence to build something for a huge audience."

Wealth does have its privileges. Patzer may have a television that is so old it can't stream Apple TV, a Christmas gift that sits unopened on the floor. But he did shell out $25,000 to spend a week celebrating his 30th birthday with friends aboard a catamaran yacht in the British Virgin Islands, and he's paying for his younger brother to get a degree in computer science.

Then there's Sean Parker, a driving force behind Napster and Facebook. Most people know him as the fun-loving playboy portrayed by Justin Timberlake in "The Social Network" who delivers the priceless line: "A million dollars isn't cool. You know what's cool? A billion dollars."

Parker, 31, co-founded Causes, a social networking service that encourages people to donate millions to nonprofits. He says it's his way of giving back.

At the same time, Parker has a closet filled with Tom Ford suits, trots the globe in private jets and is known to have dropped $13,000 on dinner and wine. He keeps a $100,000 Tesla electric sports car in Los Angeles and an Audi S5 in San Francisco. He has a pad in San Francisco and a $20 million, six-floor New York townhouse called the Bacchus House after the Roman god of wine.

"In certain corners, you will find excess. There's nothing wrong with people with money wanting to spend it," said Dave McClure, a tech investor and former PayPal executive. "But entrepreneurs are trying to be smarter and more frugal."

More typical, Silicon Valley insiders say, is Joe Greenstein, who last month sold his San Francisco company Flixster to Time Warner Inc. for about $80 million. Greenstein says the windfall hasn't made "a single material difference" in his lifestyle. The 33-year-old entrepreneur pays $1,000 a month for the same no-frills San Francisco studio apartment he has rented for the past 10 years.

He says he feels fortunate not to have to live paycheck to paycheck or worry about losing his job. And he gets to do what he loves every day.

"I don't feel like I live a life of sacrifice," he said. "I probably feel guilty that I don't sacrifice enough."

That was not the prevailing sentiment during the tech boom of the '90s, which ushered in a period of conspicuous indulgence. Instant millionaires bought Lamborghini sports cars and tore down small houses to build mansions.

Today's entrepreneurs who grew up in the shadow of that boom's collapse say they learned from it.

Kevin Hartz, 41, founder and CEO of the online ticketing company Eventbrite, says this time around, entrepreneurs are taking a more sensible approach to managing their businesses and their lives.

"It would be a contradiction for me to watch every penny at my company and then turn around and buy a $5,000 bottle of wine," Hartz said.

One reason many tech prodigies avoid living large is that it takes time to adjust to a sudden increase in wealth, said Edward Wolff, an economics professor at New York University who studies income and wealth. The newly rich don't know how long their good fortune will last, so they're cautious, he said.

Kevin Rose, founder of Digg, a service that helps users discover and share content from across the Web, appeared on the cover of BusinessWeek five years ago under the headline: "How This Kid Made $60 Million in 18 Months."

Rose said he didn't end up making $60 million. That's just what some estimated his shares were worth.

Rose, 34, said he never bought into the hype, though he did buy a sports car (he won't say what kind) before realizing that extravagant spending "leads nowhere."

He's now working on a start-up called Milk and investing in what he hopes will be the next generation of hot companies. He spends weekends watching sports and eating home-cooked meals in his San Francisco condo with his girlfriend and their dog, a Labradoodle named Toaster.

Rose is selling the sports car and now gets around in a Mini Cooper.

"I know guys who have crazy boats and planes, and that's maybe something you do when you retire. But I don't want to retire," Rose said. "I don't feel like I have made it. Internally, I feel I have much to prove."

Overdrive

10 things today's automakers aren't telling you

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

You've done your research. You've test driven the vehicles you're considering. You think you're a well-informed consumer, right?

Well, there are things automakers aren't telling you. But it's not necessarily a case of deception. It's just the quickly changing auto industry.

Here then, are 10 things your automaker isn't telling you.

■ **"If your tire pressure is low, you have a 25 percent chance of guessing which one."**

The federal government requires that all automakers equip new cars with tire-pressure monitors. There are two types. One uses a sensor at each wheel to measure the precise pressure. It's more expensive than the other one, which signals the driver if one wheel is turning at a slower speed than the others. This version, which is more common, doesn't tell you which tire is low. In most cases, the low-tire pressure light can only be reset by the dealer.

■ **"We did away with the spare tire."**

Don't look now, but your next car may not have a spare tire. Some cars, such as the Chevrolet Cruze Eco, replace the spare tire with a tire-inflator kit. Ditching the spare tire and jack saves 26 pounds, and helps improve fuel economy. Other cars, such as the Mazda MX-5 Miata, don't have room for an on-board spare.

■ **"Our new option is the same as our competitors"**

The global recession has thinned the number of automotive suppliers. This means that some options, such as voice activation, transmissions or a night-vision camera, are supplied to every automaker by the same suppliers.

■ **"Smoking will cost you extra."**

All cars and many trucks were once fitted with ashtrays and lighters. Space once used for ashtrays is taken up by a cupholder or mobile phone slot. If you want one, it's usually optional, if it's offered at all.

■ **"You'll need that optional rear-view camera."**

The current trend in design has seen vehicles with small windows and high trunk lids. This makes it difficult to see out of the back window while backing up. Rear-view cameras, which come on when the car is in reverse, are becoming a mandatory option for those concerned with safety.

■ **"You can't fix your car anymore."**

According to an engineer at General Motors, the average new car or truck has 23 CPUs in it. Some hybrids have more lines of computer code than it took to launch the first rocket to the moon. Aside from an oil and filter change, most maintenance can no longer be handled by shade-tree mechanics.

■ **"The $500 option you want will cost you $2,000."**

Most options are no longer available individually; you must buy them in an option package. This is convenient for automakers; it lessens their costs. But it raises yours if you want an option that's available only in a package with features you don't want.

■ **"We can't afford to build a compact pickup."**

If you wonder why foreign automakers don't offer more compact pickup trucks in the United States, there's a simple reason for that: They can't do it profitably. Detroit automakers offer full-size pickups that start at $21,000 to $22,000 before rebates, which can go as high as $4,000. That puts a full-size pick-up at the same price as an imported compact pickup.

■ **"We love it when you buy crossover SUVs."**

While crossover SUVs such as the Toyota Highlander or Honda Pilot look like trucks, they are based on platforms used for midsize cars, such as the Toyota Camry or Honda Accord. But automakers can charge significantly more for a crossover, even though the cost of manufacturing isn't significantly higher than that of a sedate family sedan.

■ **"Your perception of us is out of date."**

Most car buyers only enter the market every five to seven years, so it's likely that their perception of automakers dates back that far, or farther. While many buyers perceive American cars to be not as well-built as foreign ones, many domestic manufacturers offer models built or designed overseas. The Ford Focus was designed in Germany; the Buick Regal is built there. Meanwhile, the reliability of some domestic models is superior to that of their foreign competition, according to Consumer Reports and J.D. Power and Associates, among others.

Happy motoring!

Hyundai's new models intended to solidify momentum

By GREG GARDNER
DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT—Hyundai, which has seen its U.S. sales rise twice as fast as the overall industry, has unleashed two new cars that will sustain that momentum in the subcompact and midsize luxury segments.

The 2012 Accent and Genesis, both of which are imported from South Korea, are reaching dealerships now. The Accent, which starts at $15,955 for a four-door GLS, and $16,555 for a five-door hatchback, will be the freshest model in a segment where Ford's Fiesta has gained significant traction. Other competitors at Honda Fit, Toyota Yaris, Nissan Versa and later this year the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic.

John Krafcik, president and CEO of Hyundai Motors America, boasted that every version of Accent will achieve 40 miles per gallon on the highway, while most competing subcompacts can reach that level only with a specialized engine package. Accent is powered by a 1.6-liter 4-cylinder engine with a direct injection fuel system, mated to either a 6-speed manual or 6-speed automatic transmission.

The new Genesis sedan is offered with either a 3.8-liter V6, a 4.6-liter or 5.0-liter V8. The engines are paired with an 8-speed automatic transmission.

The V6 version starts at about $35,000, but can go above $40,000 with various option packages. The 5.0-liter V8 Genesis starts at $47,350 and can range higher.

Later this fall Hyundai will launch the Velociter, a sporty coupe powered by the same 1.6-liter engine in the new Accent.

Hyundai has benefited from American consumers' reawakened interest in fuel economy. Krafcik said the new cars Hyundai sold in June averaged 35.7 miles per gallon.

"We're already above the government's 2016 standard (35.5 mpg)," Krafcik said. "We're confident we can get our average above 50 mpg by 2025."

UNDER THE HOOD:

One bad switch can mess up the rest

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: My 2003 Dodge Dakota cab is always hot, and cycling the switch through all the positions does not help. In even mild weather I have to open the windows or turn on the AC. The thermostat is new, and the truck runs somewhat cool. I suppose a shutter somewhere is stuck or broken? Any simple way to trace and fix something like this?

Also, the passenger side electric window cannot be controlled by the passenger. The master controller by the driver works just fine to raise and lower it. I replaced the switch on the passenger side, but to no avail. Any idea where to go next?—Ross Smith

ANSWER: Ross, Your Dakota uses a gadget called a blend door to regulate HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) temperature output. Incoming ventilation air is directed by the blend door to pass either through the heater core, around it, or a specified blend. Blend doors allow quick changes in temperature as opposed to vehicles using a hot water control valve, which regulates heater core temperature. The down side is most blend door vehicles run a continuous flow of hot engine coolant through the heater core at all times, which warms up the neighborhood.

It's possible your blend door or the electronically controlled actuator that drives it is sticking, allowing some ventilation air to pass through the heater core, regardless of your temperature selection. A scan tool check for diagnostic trouble codes would likely show a code for an out of position blend door if this were the case.

Before surrendering the job to a pro, how about verifying ventilation outlet temperature, using a digital cooking thermometer or non-contact temperature gun, a tool that's now surprisingly affordable. If the outlet temperature is more than four or five degrees higher than ambient temperature, there may be a blend door issue. Another trick is to pinch off one of the heater hoses—there are two of them, thumb diameter, under the hood, leading to the firewall—and see what effect this has on outlet temperature. If outlet temperature drops, this also points to a possible blend door problem.

I'd also check the rear-of-hood weather strip. If it's out of position, damaged or missing, your HVAC system may draw in heated engine compartment air through the grille at the base of the windshield. Servicing the blend door parts is a time intensive job, as the instrument panel must first be removed.

Your inoperative passenger window is either caused by a faulty driver's side switch or disconnected yellow wire leading from the lockout, or kid inhibitor, switch to the passenger door. It seems odd the master switch could do this, but both master and slave, or passenger side, switches contain normally closed contacts, which allow a pathway for the electricity to be used by the other switch. In other words, the switch that isn't being used can be the problem. Prior to renewing this more expensive switch, write back and I'll send you more detailed testing instructions.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Determining gas mileage on a car that uses none

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: I just returned from vacation, where I visited a friend who has a new Nissan Leaf electric car. She said that the EPA-rated mileage is 106 mpg city, 92 mpg highway. We don't understand how they arrive at this rating for an electric car that uses no liquid fuel at all.—Lee Grace, West Palm Beach, Fla.

ANSWER: I agree, it is awkward, but the EPA is trying to relate the operating cost of an electric car to a gas-powered car. For electric vehicles, miles per gallon represents the number of miles that can be traveled using an amount of electricity equivalent to the amount of energy contained in a gallon of pure gasoline.

In the Leaf's case, the EPA says the electric car should use $561 worth of fuel in an average year, based on 45 percent highway driving, 55 percent city driving, going 15,000 miles at a fuel cost of $ 0.11 per kilowatt-hour. Using that calculation—and a $3.72 per gallon of gasoline equivalent—the EPA calculates the mileage.

Q: With all the technology and safety features in today's car, why isn't there a warning message to let us know when a headlight, parking light, brake light, taillight, daytime running light and possibly a directional signal is burned out, and which one it is? If the technology is available to tell us when a tire is low on air with a message on the dashboard, certainly we should be told when a light burns out.—David Jaspan, Tamarac, Fla.

A: Good point, David. I have driven some very high-end cars with that sort of self-diagnostic capability, and hopefully it will trickle down to affordable models soon. But you know why all new vehicles have a tire pressure monitoring system? Because the federal government mandated it on cars from 2008 and newer after the SUV-rollover problems several years earlier. Maybe it will take a mandate to get lights-out monitors.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel *in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.*

Life & Style

'The Playboy Club' to offer a key to its racy past

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

AP

In this publicity image released by NBC, from left, Amber Heard, Naturi Naughton and Leah Renee are shown in a scene from "The Playboy Club." Set in the early 1960s, this NBC drama will be roughly contemporaneous with AMC's "Mad Men," which reigns as one of a bare handful of successful period TV dramas.

NEW YORK (AP)—Of the new TV series announced for fall, none has caught the audience's eye (while raising eyebrows) like "The Playboy Club."

Set in the early 1960s, this NBC drama stands out as a rare TV period piece that is all the more notable for being joined on the fall schedule by another early '60s melodrama, ABC's "Pan Am," which focuses on frisky stewardesses in the dawning jet age.

Both shows will be roughly contemporaneous with AMC's "Mad Men," which reigns as one of a bare handful of successful period dramas (other than Westerns) in the annals of network TV, and without whose success neither "Pam Am" nor "The Playboy Club" is imaginable.

But while "Mad Men" unfolds in New York, "The Playboy Club" takes place in Chicago at the just-opened nightspot meant to build on the seductive appeal of Playboy magazine, then less than a decade old. In the vision of Playboy publisher Hugh Hefner, the club would be a swinging hideaway for Playboy fans, bringing the magazine to life.

To judge from the first episode (which airs Sept. 19), "The Playboy Club" is a zesty cocktail. There's glamour, music, mystery and sin, a dash of cultural history, and, of course, the aura of sex, all airbrushed by a half-century's remove while it flaunts the Playboy legacy, still powerfully evocative even today.

"The legendary Playboy Club in Chicago is the door to all of your fantasies," as the series description reminds you, "and the key is the most sought-after status symbol of its kind." In this pleasure palace, you rub shoulders with "the decade's biggest mobsters, politicos and entertainers," as well as Nick Dalton (series star Eddie Cibrian), a mysterious lawyer with ties to the underworld and a well-earned reputation as a—what else?—dashing playboy.

But according to Chad Hodge, who created the series, "The Playboy Club" is mostly about the bunnies—the buxom cotton-tailed, satin-corseted, look-but-don't-touch waitresses who gave the club its mythical allure.

"Through them," says Hodge, "we get everything else—soap, crime, sex, relationships and the cultural relevance of what's going on, not only in regards to Playboy but the world."

History tells us that Chicago's Playboy Club (the first of almost two dozen by the mid-1970s) opened in February 1960. A membership key set back status seekers $25 while cocktails cost a pricey $1.50—though who was complaining, when it was any one of some 85 beautiful bunnies serving them?

"Some have been models and airline hostesses," reported a Chicago newspaper in 1962, "but most of them are former office girls. A few are working their way through college, one through medical school."

"They were cocktail waitresses who could further their own lives," says Hodge. "Our show explores who they are, where they're going and what they want."

Says Laura Lancaster, NBC's head of drama development, "At its core, 'The Playboy Club' is really a soap—a fun soap in a really cool, swanky setting."

But what initially caught her fancy when the show was pitched was its focus on the women.

"That was such an interesting time for women," Lancaster says, "and I thought there were probably great conversations to be had between the bunnies that would resonate with us today."

The Playboy Club, she says, "really was empowering to women as an environment that encouraged more open-mindedness—and I don't mean about sex, but in terms of their ability to earn a great living. The doors of opportunity were open to them."

When Hodge came on board, he says he was handed a few basics: "It's Playboy. It's the early '60s. It's the first club. It's the bunnies. It's Chicago. That's what they gave me. I came up with everything else."

Hodge, whose credits include CW's short-lived 2006 drama "Runaway," starring Donnie Wahlberg, is just 34. "I'm not an original key-holder," he laughs.

But he set to work researching the subject. He pored over many of the 2,400 scrapbooks kept by full-time Playboy archivists who document the life, career and loves of Hugh Hefner.

"That's where it started," Hodge says. "And then talking to Hef and to former bunnies."

A production partner in "The Playboy Club" is Alta Loma Entertainment, a division of Playboy, which lends the show a certain authority while guaranteeing it a certain sheen.

"They are actively involved in the show, but in the most helpful way imaginable," Hodge says.

With their help, he says he's respecting the pertinent facts in his storytelling. The TV version of the club looks much like the actual club, he says; the famous "bunny dip" (a leaning-back technique for the bunny to place drinks on a low table without having to bend forward and risk falling out of her costume) has been faithfully revived.

"We take some license," Hodge allows, "but I wouldn't say it's any more than with any historical fiction or biopic."

His aim, to hear him talk, is not so much to chronicle the truth but to celebrate the legend still embraced by those who were there, or wish they had been. And never mind detractors who might sneer at a job whose "liberation" was tied to a stringent Bunny Manual that covered smiling, standing, VIP exceptions to the ban on dating customers and declared "your proudest possession is your Bunny Tail. You must keep it soft and fluffy." Which the bunnies did.

Hodge marvels at "the glint that was in the eyes of those former bunnies, and in Hef's eye, when they talk about that time and those clubs. There's such a beauty to those memories. I wanted to capture that in the show. I want the show to look like that memory."

In his pilot script, Hodge has also invested the show with snappy, noirish dialogue.

Carol-Lynne, the grande dame of bunnies (played by Laura Benanti) is scolded by Billy (David Krumholtz), the club's general manager, for using the executive bathroom. She coolly informs him that the bunny dressing room's loo is out of order, then adds pointedly, "I picked out the wallpaper for that bathroom, Billy, long before you were here telling me where to tinkle."

University, Ryan O'Neal spar over Fawcett portrait

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The University of Texas system and Ryan O'Neal are sparring over ownership of an Andy Warhol portrait of the actor's longtime companion, Farrah Fawcett.

The system's board of regents sued O'Neal in federal court in Los Angeles on Friday, asking a judge to order the Oscar-nominated actor to turn over the painting. The portrait is one of two that Warhol made of the "Charlie's Angels" star and the university claims the actress bequeathed it to their Austin, Texas campus.

O'Neal's spokesman Arnold Robinson blasted the lawsuit in a statement, saying the university has known for more than a year that the actor has painting. "This is completely ridiculous lawsuit," Robinson wrote.

"Ryan O'Neal's friendship with Andy Warhol began 10 years prior to his meeting Farrah Fawcett," Robinson wrote. "When Ryan introduced Andy to Farrah, Mr. Warhol chose to complete two portraits of her, one for Ms. Fawcett and one for Mr. O'Neal. Mr. O'Neal looks forward to being completely vindicated in the courts."

The university's lawsuit claims O'Neal may be holding onto other pieces from Fawcett's art collection that she wanted the university to have after her June 2009 death. Fawcett attended the University of Texas at Austin in the 1960s, according to the complaint.

"The enduring value and public interest in the Warhol portraits is a testament not only to Mr. Warhol's talent and artistry, but also to Ms. Fawcett's status as a cultural icon," the lawsuit states.

Warhol created the portraits in the 1980s and they were only publicly displayed once, the lawsuit states.

The University of Texas wants O'Neal to purchase insurance for the painting and properly preserve it so that it can be turned over to the university if the lawsuit succeeds. It also seeks undetermined financial damages from O'Neal, but states the Fawcett portrait is priceless.

"The Warhol portrait is an irreplaceable piece of art for which legal damages could not fully compensate," the lawsuit states.

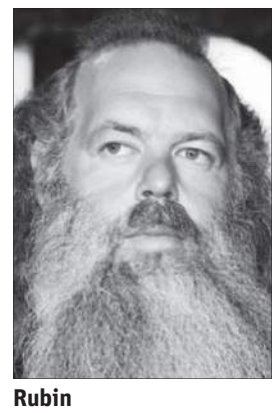
Producer talks Adele, new Chili Peppers project

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—So far, Adele's "21" is the best-selling album of the year, with a little over 2.5 million copies sold. Rick Rubin, who produced several tracks on the album, says while he had no idea the album would connect with so many people, he understands why it has.

"She doesn't carry any of the baggage of many of today's pop stars, and it truly is about the music first, and her voice and her lyrics, and baring her soul with what she's saying. I would say what she makes is her art, and at no time does it feel like product," he said in a phone interview recently. "So much of pop music feels like product."

The British singer won Grammys for her debut album "19," but has catapulted to superstar status with the success of "21" and hits like the No. 1 "Rolling in the Deep." Figures released by Nielsen SoundScan earlier this week showed it was the year's most popular album at the mid-way point.



Rubin

Rubin says the raw emotions in songs on the album, inspired mostly by the 23-year-old's breakup with a boyfriend, are what people are responding to.

"She really bared her soul lyrically, and I think that's what resonating with people—the truth in her lyrics, and the passion in which she tells that truth," he said.

Rubin, a Grammy-winning producer who's worked with artists ranging from Jay-Z to Johnny Cash to Neil Diamond, has several other high-profile projects he's working on, including albums from Metallica, Linkin Park, the Avett Brothers and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Rubin describes the Chili Peppers' album "I'm With You," due out Aug. 30, as unlike anything the band has ever done—but unmistakably Peppers music. He credits that in part to guitarist Josh Klinghoffer, who replaced John Frusciante, and personal changes group members have gone through since putting out their last album five years ago.

"Anthony (Kiedis) and Flea had children during that time, so their lives have changed a lot since the last album we made, and because they had taken this time off, they came back with a real hunger and excitement about the music-making process again," Rubin said.

"I think it's the first time in their career that they'd ever taken off that big of a chunk of time, and they've been a band for 28 years now," he said. "It really feels like starting all over again, because they have the dynamics of a new band."

'Potter' class graduates with no child-actor woes

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES, California (AP)—If the young cast of the "Harry Potter" films received report cards for their school days at Hogwarts, probably all of them would earn the notation, "plays well with others."

Cast as impressionable children in Hollywood's biggest fantasy franchise, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and their many young costars have maneuvered through 11 years of fame, and the temptations it brings, without any whispers of Lindsay Lohan-style meltdowns that can derail child actors.

They have grown up smart, humble, polite and professional, eager to balance modest private lives with productive acting careers rather than leap into the party-until-dawn celebrity lifestyle.

The actors and the headmasters of the Warner Bros. franchise say it was not magic that kept the kids on their best behavior. It was the luck of the draw when the youngsters were first cast, good parenting, mindful shepherding that resembled the rigors and care of the finest boarding schools, and a sheltered workplace outside of London, far from Hollywood's madding crowds.

"It's very different doing it in England," said Radcliffe, who was 11 when cast in the title role as the boy wizard for 2001's "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and turns 22 the week after the mid-July debut of the final film, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2."

JAAP BUITENDIJK/WARNER BROS./MCT

Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter, from left, Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley and Emma Watson as Hermione Granger star in Warner Bros. Pictures' fantasy adventure, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

"In America, you're treated as an actor first and a kid second. Here, you're very much treated as a kid first and an actor second. In fact, you're not really treated as an actor. You're treated as a kid on a film set, which is how it should be, because that's all you are that point. No one's an actor at 12."

And with the performers so young, their parents were instrumental in steering the children through busy working lives and the madness of instant celebrity.

"We couldn't have done it without the family support that's kept all three of them and the supporting cast all lovely, lovely people," said David Barron, a producer on most of the "Harry Potter" films. "They've got very strong families who kept them really strongly grounded."

With tens of millions of "Harry Potter" fans to please and billions of dollars at stake, Warner Bros. went to great lengths to protect and nurture the stars through eight films and a decade of hard work.

Sets to create author J.K. Rowling's Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and other Potter locations were built at Leavesden Studios northwest of London, giving the filmmakers a controlled environment where they could work and essentially help raise their young charges.

"It's been a bit of a bubble, and it's been very self-contained, and I think we just have good people around us," said Watson, who was 10 when cast as Hermione Granger and now is 21. "We've just been lucky that we haven't been exploited in any way."

Radcliffe, Watson, Grint and such co-stars as Tom Felton, Bonnie Wright, Evanna Lynch and Matthew Lewis had tutors on set, along with armies of studio publicists to help coach them through the media circus of almost-annual premieres and press junkets to promote each film.

The filmmakers say Leavesden became a kind of Hogwarts boarding school for the cast.

"It was a place that was just us, nobody else," said David Heyman, a producer on all of the "Harry Potter" films. "That has enabled us to sort of cocoon ourselves in an environment, in a way, that I think is a supportive and a safe one."

"To have children grow up in that kind of maelstrom of affection and general applause for everything they do, it's not normal, and you can imagine it very easily could have ended in somebody going off the rails somewhere," producer Barron said.

"But they were never put under the microscope of the outside world whilst they were working. ... If ever they got a bit bumptious when they were younger, the bubble was very quickly burst by someone or other on the crew, who just said, 'Oh, yeah? Come on.'"

The actors developed strong work ethics, and the filmmakers saw traits in their stars that mirrored those of the characters.

Like Harry, Radcliffe assumed a solicitous leadership role, sort of a goodwill ambassador on set. Like Hermione, Watson was studious, hurling herself into her education. Like Ron Weasley, Grint had a playful humor and the support of a large family.

"You felt people are just kind of waiting for us to fall into that stereotype of, I suppose, child actors," said Grint, who started on "Potter" at age 11 and turns 23 a month after the final film opens. "But I've always been quite busy. Never really had much time to go too crazy. I come from a big family, as well, and that always helps you to know who you are."

Director David Yates, who made the final four "Harry Potter" films, said he wondered a few years back whether some of his stars might turn into a handful as they reached the rebellious late-teen years.

"Because, they have every right to kind of get angry or frustrated," Yates said. "They carry a lot of responsibility. They're under tremendous pressure. They have enormous temptations. The world is at their feet. They get paid enormous amounts of money. But they haven't gone over the edge, and I think it's the people around them. I think there's something ingrained with them. It's their family."

Many child actors have trouble landing more adult roles once they outgrow their cute and cuddly phase and can get sidetracked into drugs or alcohol, such as Lohan and others before her, including Danny Bonaduce, Corey Feldman and Macauley Culkin.

So far, the main "Potter" stars have remained focused. Radcliffe has done Broadway with "Equus" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," and stars in the coming big-screen thriller "The Woman in Black." Watson is studying at Brown University and has a role in the coming Marilyn Monroe drama "My Week With Marilyn." Grint did a couple of independent movies in between "Potter" films and stars in the coming war saga "Comrade."

Radcliffe recalls endless questions during the past decade as people asked him, "Aren't you scared about what's happened to these other child stars?"

"Having to answer that so many times made me go, 'Jesus, if you're asking this so many times, now if I do go off the deep end, I'm just never, ever going to hear the end of that,'" he said. "By now, I do view it as sort of a personal mission that I have. If all of us in this big franchise can then go off and have successful, balanced lives, careers, whatever, I'm hoping that I paved the way for the next generation of child stars in not having to answer those questions."

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Zookeeper
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Kevin James, Rosario Dawson
Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Beloved zookeeper Griffin Keyes (Kevin James) decides to quit his job to dive into the dating pool, and finds that his animal friends have been harboring an incredible secret in this comedy from director Frank Coraci (The Wedding Singer, Click). Griffin is a single guy who loves his job at the Franklin Park Zoo. He has a special bond with the animals, yet he can't help but feel lonely each night when he returns to an empty house.

Horrible Bosses
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Colin Farrell, Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, and Charlie Day star in this workplace comedy about three frustrated employees who hatch a plan to kill their micromanaging bosses, only to find their murderous plot snowballing into disaster. Seth Gordon (The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters) directs a screenplay written by Michael Markowitz, Jonathan Goldstein, and John Francis Daley.

★ ★ ★

Monte Carlo
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Selena Gomez, Leighton Meester
Comedy • Rated PG

Larry Crowne
Fri and Sat 1:30 7:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 7:30
Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts
Comedy drama • Rated PG 13

Cars 2
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Owen Wilson, John Turturro
Children's/family • Rated PG

Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Bad Teacher
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Comedy • Rated R

Green Lantern
Fri and Sat 4:30 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 4:30
Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively
Action • Rated PG 13

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David Beckham, Victoria welcome baby girl

LONDON (AP)—David Beckham's spokesman said that the soccer star's wife Victoria has given birth to a healthy baby girl on Sunday.

Simon Oliveira said that the celebrity couple are "delighted to announce the birth of their daughter."

"Happy and healthy she arrived at 7.55 am this morning at Cedars Sinai hospital in Los Angeles and weighed 7lbs 10oz," Oliveira posted on Twitter, adding that the Beckhams' three sons "are excited to welcome their baby sister to the family."

The Beckhams, who married in 1999 and whose celebrity is entrenched on both sides of the Atlantic, already have three boys: Brooklyn, 11, Romeo, 8, and Cruz, 5.

On his Facebook page, David Beckham said the girl had been named Harper Seven Beckham.

The the little girl was born the morning after Beckham scored directly from a corner kick to give the Los Angeles Galaxy a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Fire, extending his team's Major League Soccer unbeaten streak to 12 matches.

British soccer player David Beckham pats the stomach of his pregnant wife Victoria, as they attend the wedding of Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton at London's Westminster Abbey, in this file photo dated Friday April 29, 2011. AP

The 36-year-old Beckham captained England's national team from 2000 to 2006. He played for Manchester United and Spain's Real Madrid before moving to L.A. to join the Galaxy in 2007.

Thirty-seven-year-old Victoria Beckham found fame as a singer for 1990s girl band the Spice Girls and has since become a fixture of the fashion circuit.

Just days ago the LA Galaxy star posted a picture of his heavily pregnant wife on Facebook. Beneath the image—which appeared to show his wife sunbathing—Beckham wrote: "Took this pic of Victoria while she wasn't looking. She looks amazing, so close now to the baby being born!"

New Jersey man arrested in stolen Picasso drawing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The case of a stolen Picasso has been cracked—and police say it was a New Jersey man who walked into the gallery in downtown San Francisco, snatched the drawing and fled in a taxi.

Police arrested Mark Lugo, 31, on Wednesday at an apartment in Napa, and found the artwork stripped from its frame. The 1965 pencil-on-paper drawing—titled "Tete de Femme"—was purchased at a spring auction in New York. It's worth about a quarter of a million dollars.

"I've had some sleepless nights," said Rowland Weinstein, who owns the Weinstein Gallery. "I feel very, very lucky and very relieved that the Picasso wasn't harmed and will be returned back safely."

Weinstein said he planned to upgrade the street-level art gallery's surveillance system. The drawing was displayed under guard at a news conference at the police station on Thursday.

Lugo faces burglary, grand theft and drug charges and is being held on $5 million bail. He has been in town since July 4 and was visiting friends, said Police Chief Greg Suhr.

Lugo's arrest comes a day after surveillance video released from a nearby restaurant showed a man matching his description walking by with a piece of framed artwork covered by a newspaper under his arm.

Suhr said the footage played a key role in the arrest.

Investigators believe Lugo was working alone and likely planned to ship the artwork to an unknown party.

Weinstein said the artwork is so rare that any buyer who purchased it likely could not have displayed it publicly.

"It's exquisite and beautiful and very typical of (Picasso's) work," Weinstein said. "What I don't know is what he intended to do with it. It's very hard to resell to show. "He either had a buyer or he didn't thoroughly think his plan through," Weinstein said.

Rihanna cuts Dallas concert short because of fire

DALLAS (AP)—A small fire above the stage forced pop star Rihanna to cut her Dallas concert short.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports the fire broke out near a lighting truss as Rihanna was finishing the ballad "California King Bed" and descending below the stage for a costume change. The newspaper says the production crew quickly extinguished the fire, but the Friday night show was canceled anyway.

About 12,500 people were in the audience. American Airlines Center spokeswoman Jenny Walker says an evacuation was orderly and no injuries were reported.

The fire cut a short show even shorter. Rihanna was about an hour late taking the stage after her flight from New York to Dallas was delayed.

The singer later tweeted that "We set the stage on FYAH tonight!!!"

'Transformers' stay in shape with $47M weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Transformers: Dark of the Moon" now rules this year's box office as the blockbuster sequel became 2011's top domestic hit with $261 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Paramount Pictures' science-fiction smash starring Shia LaBeouf remained No. 1 in its second weekend with $47 million and shot past "The Hangover Part II" to first-place on the domestic chart.

Debuting in second place with $28.1 million domestically was the Warner Bros. comedy "Horrible Bosses," featuring Jason Bateman, Charlie Day and Jason Sudeikis as bumblers plotting against their nasty supervisors.

Opening at No. 3 with $21 million was Sony Pictures' family tale "Zookeeper," with Kevin James as an animal tender who gets romantic advice from the talking critters in his care.

Domestic business dipped overall, with revenues totaling $158 million, down 18 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Despicable Me" led with a $56.4 million debut, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Despite predictions of a monster summer that would easily surpass last year's anemic one, revenues since the first weekend in May have slipped slightly behind those of summer 2010, according to Hollywood.com. With tickets costing more this year than last, that means admissions are down even further compared to summer 2010, when domestic attendance was among the lowest in the past decade.

1. **"Transformers: Dark of the Moon,"** $47 million ($93 million international).
2. **"Horrible Bosses,"** $28.1 million.
3. **"Zookeeper,"** $21 million ($7.5 million international).
4. **"Cars 2,"** $15.2 million ($26.9 million international).
5. **"Bad Teacher,"** $9 million.
6. **"Larry Crowne,"** $6.3 million.
7. **"Super 8,"** $4.8 million ($2.5 million international).
8. **"Monte Carlo,"** $3.8 million.
9. **"Green Lantern,"** $3.1 million.
10. **"Mr. Popper's Penguins,"** $2.9 million.

The third "Transformers" sequel is climbing fast, but other familiar titles such as "Cars 2," ''X-Men: First Class," ''Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" and "Kung Fu Panda 2" are not living up to the domestic earnings of their predecessors. Even "The Hangover Part II," which had a huge opening weekend, is coming in below the original one domestically.

"This is when we're supposed to be pulling well ahead of one of the lowest-attended summers of the last 10 years, which was last summer, and we're not doing that," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "Given all their entertainment options now, it really takes a lot for people to see a trailer and say, 'Oh, we've got to go out and see that.'"

A familiar title that fans will be rushing out to see arrives this coming week with "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," the finale of one of Hollywood's biggest franchises.

Warner Bros. general sales manager Jeff Goldstein said the studio expects the eighth "Harry Potter" film to be the top-grossing entry in the series.

Though summer revenues are lagging, "'Potter' will change all of that next week," Goldstein said. "Going into this weekend, the industry was off year over year, but I think now we're going to close that gap."

Open house can lead to open drawers if caution isn't taken

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: During this economic recession, may I offer a reminder to your readers who may have their homes on the market and available for showing? Someone entered my home during an open house and rummaged through my drawers. The thief made off with my cherished sapphire engagement ring, an emerald band and several other sentimental pieces.

I'm ashamed for having underestimated people's dishonesty. I never assumed anyone would coldheartedly dig through my clothes and belongings to find hidden valuables—especially with a Realtor onsite. I'm an emotional wreck over the loss of these precious keepsakes that I will never see again.

Please remind your readers whose homes are on the market to be smart and remove all valuables from the site before showings.

DISILLUSIONED IN SAN MARCOS, CALIF.

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: I'm sorry you had to learn this lesson the hard way. It's unfortunate, but there are individuals who use open houses to case homes and loot items from trusting homeowners. That's why it's important to not only remove personal financial information, jewelry and other items of value to a secure location where they can't be pilfered, but also any prescription medications from bathrooms before a showing. Any stranger entering the house should sign a registration sheet and show identification before being shown around, and even then no one should be out of the real estate agent's line of sight at any time.

If your property has a "For Sale" sign in front and someone comes to the door, that person should be instructed to phone your agent for an appointment. And by the way, for their own safety, many agents now have a second person on hand so they're not alone in a house with strangers.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My grandson, "Tom," who is in his mid-20s, has become caught up in a "love affair" with an unknown person on the Internet. He never dated during his teens, although his mother told me he once developed a crush on a girl who broke his heart when she rebuffed him.

Now Tom tells me he has found his "true love" online. He says she has told him she's unhappy in her marriage and would divorce her husband if she could afford to do so. I asked him how he could know it was really a woman and not some guy playing a joke on him. He answered, "Grandma, no one could say the things she says to me if she didn't really feel them in her heart."

How can I convince him that this may be nothing more than a cruel scam?

WORRIED GRANDMA IN ILLINOIS

DEAR WORRIED: Your grandson appears to be naive, inexperienced, and unaware of how many people don't tell the whole truth about themselves online. Warn him that if "she" asks him for money to pay for her divorce that it could indeed be a scam. Remind him that even if it's not one, she is cheating on her husband by carrying on an emotional affair with him. And he shouldn't jump in with his whole heart until he knows with whom he's having the pleasure. But you can't safeguard him from being hurt regardless of how much you might wish to do so.

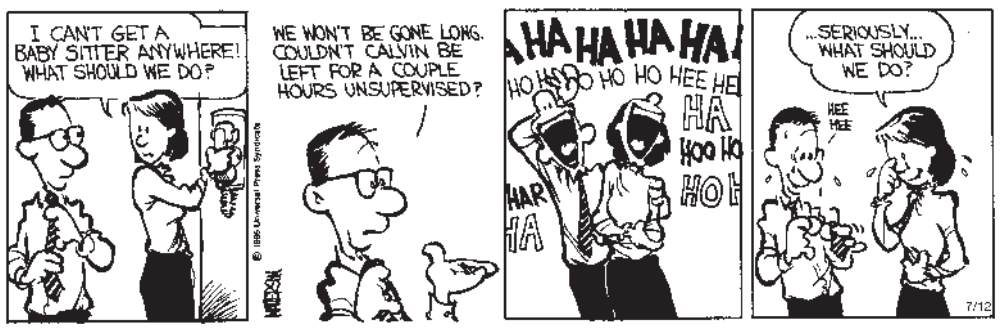
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CAN'T GET A BABY SITTER ANYWHERE! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE WON'T BE GONE LONG. COULDN'T CALVIN BE LEFT FOR A COUPLE HOURS UNSUPERVISED?
HA HA HA HA
HO HO HO HEE HE
...SERIOUSLY... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HEE HEE
7/12

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I FEEL BAD ABOUT CANCELING FAMILY FUN FEST.
MONEY'S TIGHT, HONEY, AND YOUR PLANS WERE WONKA-ESQUE.
MAYBE WE COULD GO SOMEWHERE WE CAN ALL HAVE FUN CHEAPLY.
I THOUGHT SO TOO, BUT THE LIBERACE MUSEUM IS CLOSED.
NO, SILLY. MUSKIE T. MOZZARELLA'S GOOD-TIME EMPORIUM.
WITH THE GAMES AND ALL THOSE TICKETS YOU WIN FOR PLAYING?
I ALWAYS WONDERED IF THEY RECYCLE THOSE TICKETS.
PRETTY SURE THAT'S WHAT THEIR PIZZA CRUST IS MADE FROM.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

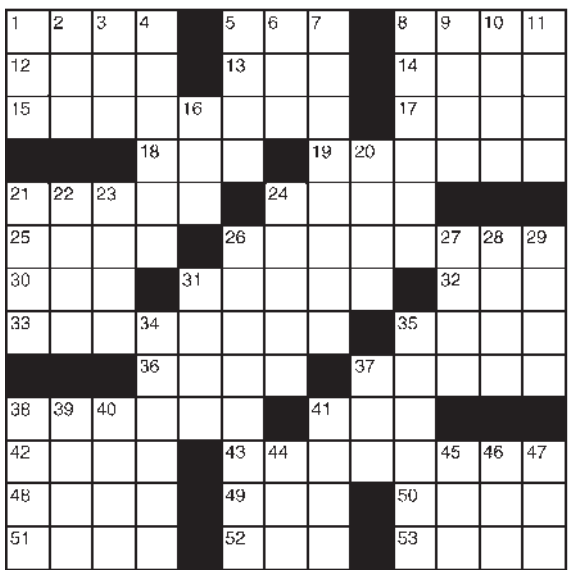
ACROSS
1 Food list
5 Lummox
8 Glitz partner
12 Shakespeare's river
13 Under the weather
14 Relaxation
15 Corsage flower
17 Karaoke need
18 Tattooist's supply
19 Need for water
21 Released
24 100 (Sp.)
25 Statutes
26 Jon Arbuckle's cat
30 Noshed
31 Fortune-teller's deck
32 Extinct bird
33 Military post
35 Shade of color
36 Not 13-Across
37 Garbage vessel
38 Jungle expedition
41 Intend
42 Tiger Woods' ex
43 Chickpea
48 McNally partner
49 That guy
50 Bank transaction
51 Vicinity
52 Attempt
53 Advantage

DOWN
1 Periodical, for short
2 Actress Longoria
3 Neither mate
4 Intimate apparel
5 Pig's call
6 "The Greatest"
7 Pressing need?
8 Zodiac twins
9 Den
10 Requests
11 Encounter
16 Conclusion
20 Weight
21 Old Glory, e.g.
22 — -tat-tat
23 Basin accessory
24 Yuletide song
26 Old-fashioned illumination
27 Eastern potentate
28 Protracted
29 Appointment
31 Layer
34 Kigali's country
35 Mexican entree
37 Clothes protector
38 Anti-toxins
39 Winged
40 OK
41 Host
44 Melody
45 Affirmative action?
46 Sharp turn
47 Inseparable

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	B	S		J	I	B	E	D		O	P	T
P	O	I		O	N	I	C	E		L	O	Y
A	P	R	I	L	F	O	O	L		D	E	P
			S	I	E		L	I	E	S	T	O
C	I	P	H	E	R		I	M	A	C		
A	D	O		T	N	T		F	T	H	I	C
M	E	W	S		O	A	R		S	O	S	A
P	E	E	N	S		D	E	B		O	E	R
			R	O	F	S		F	F	I	F	D
F	A	T	W	A	H		U	R	I			
A	G	O		D	I	R	T	Y	P	O	O	L
D	U	O		O	R	I	F	I		D	N	A
E	E	L		G	L	O	S	S		D	E	W

Yesterday's answer 7-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Topher Grace, 33; Michelle Rodriguez, 33; Cheryl Ladd, 60; Bill Cosby, 74.

Happy Birthday: Don't let uncertainty lead to stagnation. You have to be willing to try different methods to get what you want. Your persistence will help you achieve your goals this year. Don't be afraid to show a little emotion in your private life and fervor in your professional life. Your image may need a little tweaking if you have not kept up with the times. Your numbers are 9, 11, 13, 20, 32, 34, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Look at all your investment options, but don't take a risk or spend money you don't have readily available. Networking will help you make an important decision. Don't be afraid to make a change based on what you discover. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Concentrate on self-help and spiritual growth, along with looking your best. It's how you present yourself to the world that will count, especially when you are trying to make an impression. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Believe in what you can do. You can converse with anyone and make a good impression. Lay your cards on the table and be willing to make a promise. Don't be fooled by someone who is trying to intervene or cause havoc. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put a little effort into a creative idea you've wanted to explore. Don't limit the possibilities because you don't believe in you. Step outside of your current circle and you will discover that you have so much more to offer and to receive than you realize. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Present what you have to offer personally and professionally and you will attract a buzz that is sure to lead to an interesting proposal. Travel or change of location will inspire you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be ready to do the work yourself and to make things happen if you want things done. An emotional encounter will set you back. Live for the moment and let love lead you down the right path. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let laziness be your downfall. Push what you have to offer and refuse to give in to temptation and demands. Make your own decisions and be sure-footed when it comes to how you are going to get what you want. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): The past will be a reminder of what not to do in the future. Don't leave anything to chance when there is so much to gain by taking control and allowing your creativity to blossom. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Concentrate on what you have to offer and what you have to gain by the connections you make at events you attend. Someone you are involved with may want more of a commitment or at least more of your time. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keeping an eye on your prospects and your best interests will help you gravitate toward the people who have the most to offer. Love is on the rise, and you can turn a chance meeting into an opportunity. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do what you can to help others and you will be rewarded in an unusual way. Making changes to your home and family life will pay off. Opportunities are apparent if you reach out and grab them. Good fortune is close by. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Love is in the stars, and getting together with someone from your past will tempt you to make some much needed changes in your life. Weigh the old against the new before you make a choice that you will have to live with for a long time. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adventuresome, brave, expressive and adaptable. You are impatient, versatile and always ready to take charge.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		9				1		2
				7				
	3		9		8		5	
		1	4		7	3		
	9						1	
		7	8		1	6		
	6		7		5		4	
				8				
3		4				5		7

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	1	9	6	7	8	2	3
8	7	6	2	4	3	1	9	5
3	2	9	1	5	8	6	7	4
7	1	5	8	2	4	3	6	9
9	6	2	7	3	5	4	8	1
4	3	8	6	9	1	2	5	7
6	8	3	4	7	9	5	1	2
2	9	4	5	1	6	7	3	8
1	5	7	3	8	2	9	4	6

Difficulty Level ★ 7/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SEVE BALLESTEROS (1957-2011) **Solution: 7 letters**

C	L	E	J	E	D	P	U	C	R	E	D	Y	R	S
H	H	A	M	O	R	E	M	O	D	L	A	B	E	R
S	P	A	N	I	S	H	Y	A	T	O	S	V	C	E
N	G	M	M	O	L	E	C	A	R	M	E	N	O	T
I	R	D	U	P	I	I	S	B	L	R	I	E	R	S
W	E	R	S	I	I	S	O	R	I	P	D	T	D	A
A	E	P	C	I	R	O	S	A	U	R	D	E	N	M
I	N	G	O	V	K	T	N	E	V	O	A	P	I	E
R	S	A	R	I	I	O	A	S	F	Y	C	M	T	H
B	L	T	E	E	R	C	K	L	H	O	B	O	O	T
A	E	O	O	E	F	I	E	P	E	I	R	C	B	N
T	U	U	E	H	L	L	O	N	R	N	P	P	A	O
N	N	R	N	L	S	R	O	D	T	G	T	S	L	R
A	A	M	A	E	T	M	I	G	U	E	L	E	L	I
C	M	P	E	D	R	E	N	A	A	W	A	R	D	S

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Awards, Baldomero, Ball, Birdie, Book, Botin, Caddies, Cantabria, Career, Carmen, Championships, Compete, Course, Emilio, Game, Golfer, Green, Iron, Jose, Manuel, Miguel, Pedrena, PGA Tour, Played, Professional, Ramon, Record, Ryder Cup, Score, Severiano, Shots, Skill, Sota, Spanish, Talented, Team, The Masters, Triumph, Trophy, Vicente, Wins

Yesterday's Answer: Eyewear

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: July 12,
Close Date: July 18, 2011

Position: (2) Cleaner, Housekeeping
Salary: $5.05 per hour

Job Qualification: High School Graduate
Two Years Experience.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-CDA-04

SUBMISSION: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY2011 & 2012 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director, CDA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive
Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsmile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administratrix Berlinda Flawau-Quitano

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	**Civil Action No. 11-0087**
JOSE TAIMANAO KING, (Rota Resident) Decedent.	**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to any and all creditors or entities having claims against the late Jose Taimano King, or his estate that they are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court, CNMI, within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be forever barred if not filed within the 60-day deadline. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the estate's administratrix Berlinda Flawau-Quitano, through her counsel, **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, at Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

Dated this 7th day of July 2011.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRGORAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BID
ITB11-GOV-113
Emergency Repairs at Tinian Harbor

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction for the Emergency Repairs at the Tinian Harbor, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the project site. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 9, 2011 to Ms. Liz Balajadia, lizb@emchen.com or Ms. Nerissa Benavente, Nerissa.benavente@gmail.com of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB11-GOV-113". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time August 19, 2011. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 19, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 19, 2011, and must be received no later than August 31, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, September 1, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, on August 19, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must posses a certificate of authority to conduct business in the CNMI and certification that the value or its unencumbered assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the amount or each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) five hundred dollars ($500.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement & Supply, DOF

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Wambach, Solo key riveting US win over Brazil

AP

United States' Abby Wambach scores her side's 2nd goal during the quarterfinal match between Brazil and the United States at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Dresden, Germany, Sunday, July 10, 2011.

DRESDEN, Germany (AP)—Running low on hope and almost out of time, the Americans were surely beat, about to make their earliest exit from the Women's World Cup.

And then, with one of the most thrilling goals in U.S. history, they weren't.

Showing a dramatic burst sure to captivate the folks back home, the Americans packed an entire World Cup's worth of theatrics into a 15-minute span by beating Brazil 5-3 on penalty kicks after a 2-2 tie Sunday night.

Abby Wambach tied it with a magnificent, leaping header in the 122nd minute, and Hope Solo denied the Brazilians—again—in one of the most riveting games in the history of the World Cup, men's or women's.

"There is something special about this group. That energy, that vibe," Solo said. "Even in overtime, you felt something was going to happen."

The United States advanced to Wednesday's semifinals against France, which eliminated England on penalty kicks Saturday. And while the Americans will have to win twice more to win the final, they are the only one of the favorites left after two-time defending champ Germany was stunned by Japan on Saturday night.

The U.S. victory came 12 years to the day the Americans' last caught their country's attention in a big way with their penalty-kick shootout victory over China at the Rose Bowl that gave them their second World Cup title. This one created enough of a buzz that highlights were shown on the Jumbotron at Yankee Stadium, drawing big cheers.

For Brazil, it is yet another disappointment at a major tournament. And this one is sure to sting more than any others because Marta had it won for the Brazilians, scoring her second goal of the game in the second minute of overtime for the 2-1 lead. But Erika stalled when she went down on a tackle, and the delay added three minutes of stoppage time to the game.

That was all the time Wambach and the Americans needed, after pushing themselves to limit while playing a woman short after Rachel Buehler's 66th-minute ejection.

"Not for one second," Wambach said when asked if she ever felt the Americans were beat. "I kept saying, all it takes is one chance. I kept holding up one finger to the girls."

Two minutes into stoppage time, Megan Rapinoe blasted a left-footed cross from 30 yards out on the left side that Andreia didn't come close to getting her hands on. Wambach, one of the best players in the world in the air, made contact and with one furious whip of her head, buried it in the near side of the net from about five yards.

"I took a touch and smoked it," Rapinoe said. "I don't think I've ever hit a cross with my left foot that well. And then that beast in the air got ahold of it."

Wambach let out a primal scream and slid into the corner, pumping her fists and quickly mobbed by teammates. No goal had ever been scored that deep into a World Cup game.

"Everything seemed to be on the safe side, but it wasn't," Brazil coach Kleiton Lima said. "Unfortunately there was the goal."

The Americans, shooting first, made their three penalty kicks only to have Cristiane and Marta easily match them. But then it was Daiane's turn—the same Daiane who'd given the U.S. a 1-0 lead with an own goal in the second minute of the game. She took a hard shot, but Solo stretched out and batted it away. Though the U.S. still had to make two more, the celebration was already starting.

After Rapinoe blistered the net with a blast and Ali Krieger converted hers, the Americans raced onto the field, their joy only matched by that of the pro-American crowd of 25,598. Wambach tackled Solo and U.S. coach Pia Sundhage even broke out her air guitar when AC/DC's "You Shook Me All Night Long" began to play.

Shake the tournament, the Americans did.

"It is a special moment for me and for this team," Solo said.

Four years ago, Solo touched off a firestorm after the Americans were humiliated 4-0 in the semifinals by Brazil, criticizing then-coach Greg Ryan's decision to bench her. She has lost only one game since, being particularly tough on Brazil. She's now 5-0, including a 1-0 shutout in overtime in the 2008 Olympic final.

It's redemption for the rest of the Americans, too, who have been roundly criticized and questioned for their uncharacteristically inconsistent play in recent months. After going more than two years without a loss, they've been beaten four times since November.

"It's like a storybook," Wambach said.

While the Americans partied, Marta and the Brazilians watched in silence. Cristiane repeatedly wiped away tears during postgame interviews. Despite a star-filled roster led by Marta, the FIFA player of the year five times running, Brazil has never won a major tournament. It lost to the Americans in the two Olympic gold-medal games, and to Germany in the 2007 World Cup final.

"They fought, they did everything," coach Kleiton Lima said. "They threw their hearts into it and, of course, they were really sad."

The U.S. has now eliminated Brazil at five of the last seven major tournaments. The lone consolation was that Marta's goals, the 13th and 14th of her career, tied her with Birgit Prinz atop the all-time World Cup scoring list. The Americans also have won their last five meetings against Brazil.

None, however, was more memorable than this.

Brazil spotted the U.S. the lead in the second minute with an own goal by Daiane, who misdirected a clearance, then spent the next 63 trying furiously for the equalizer—and getting increasingly frustrated with every minute they didn't get it.

When they finally did, it was clouded in controversy.

Marta made a dangerous run into the box in the 65th, beating two U.S. defenders and coming practically nose to nose with Solo before Buehler tracked back and dragged her down. Australian referee Jacqui Melksham not only ruled it a penalty but a red card as well. Cristiane, who already scored one goal off a penalty, took the kick. Solo made a perfect read and smacked it away, pumping her fists as Lloyd ran toward her to grab her in a bearhug.

But Melksham ordered the penalty retaken—and gave Solo a yellow card, ruling the American had left her line or a teammate encroached the penalty area before the kick was taken. Replays clearly showed Solo was on her line.

"I have no idea," Solo said. "It is what it is."

As the crowd jeered, Marta stepped up for the retake, staring down her old foe. Solo cost Marta and the Brazilians the gold medal in Beijing, stopping a point-blank blast from Marta in the 72nd minute of the Olympic final. This time, however, Marta got the best of the U.S. 'keeper, burying the ball to pull the Brazilians even.

As she walked away from the spot, Marta slapped her right arm.

Fired up, the Americans repeatedly pushed forward over the last 20 minutes but couldn't get a decent shot. The closest they came was a blast from Rapinoe in second-half stoppage time, but it was from long range and it was never a real threat to Andreia.

Marta seemed to put the game out of reach in the 92nd minute—though replays seemed to show that Maurine, the player who fed her the ball, was offside.

But the Americans, criticized after losing four games in the last eight months, have talked repeatedly about their resilience. On this day, it was on full display.

"We're just fighting for each other out there," said captain Christie Rampone, the last player left from the 1999 squad. "We were totally believing the whole time."

Tour rest day welcome after crash carnage

SAINT-FLOUR, France (AP)—Riders sprawled over the course. One wound up in a ditch, another with a busted leg. Everyone, it seemed, needed ice: A rest day couldn't come soon enough.

The bleeding and battered Tour de France field endured its worst day yet of crashes, a strange and dangerous ordeal in which even a car took out riders.

When cyclists ease their aching bones Monday on their day off after nine frenzied and punishing stages, Alexandre Vinokourov will be waking up several hundred miles away in a Paris hospital after surgery on a fractured thigh bone.

Defending champion Alberto Contador's right knee will be bathed in ice, and Juan Antonio Flecha's legs will be bruised and scabbed after he was slammed by a car late in Sunday's stage.

"It is too bad to see riders crashing out of the race like this," two-time Tour runner-up Andy Schleck said.

Spain's Luis Leon Sanchez won the ninth stage after a long breakaway in the second day of mountains, and France's Thomas Voeckler took the yellow jersey from Thor Hushovd. But they left plenty of wreckage behind them.

Cyclists anticipate all number of obstacles during this three-week showcase—wet roads, extreme heat, dehydration, exhaustion, crashes. Getting sent airborne by a Tour car is not one of them.

But that's what happened to the Flecha and to Johnny Hoogerland as they entered the final stretch of the 129-mile route from Issoire to Saint-Flour in the Massif Central. They were in a five-man front group that included Voeckler, Sanchez and France's Sandy Casar.

If Vinokourov's crash, which involved about 30 other riders midway through the stage, was not scary enough, the sight of an out-of-control car swerving right into Flecha was a perplexing sight—even in a race more than a century old.

The impact hit Flecha like a shovel, sending the Spaniard flying sideways into Hoogerland. Hoogerland then soared upward, just scraping a barbed wire fence. Had the Dutchman hit that face-first, the damage would have been gruesome.

"I understand that guests want to have a close look at the race," Sanchez said. "But we need to get a message across to the organizers so that the drivers are more careful."

Remarkably, Hoogerland, who landed in a roadside ditch, and Flecha, got back up: speed gone, spirit intact.

Vacansoleil manager Michel Cornelisse said Hoogerland had deep cuts to both legs. But the rider still had enough strength to hobble to the podium and slip on the red and white polka dot jersey as the new leader in the King of the Mountains competition.

Flecha's Sky team manager, Dave Brailsford, was considering a formal complaint.

"We might bring the matter forward tomorrow, but tonight we are not making comments", he said.

Tour organizers banned the car and its driver from the rest of the race, saying the driver ignored a warning to let a team cars pass to bring a water bottle to Voeckler.

Last week, a photographer's motorcycle hit Danish rider Nicki Sorensen and sent the Saxo Bank cyclist skidding along the roadside while the motorbike dragged away his bike. Organizers also barred that driver.

Stricker wins Deere Classic for 3rd straight year

SILVIS, Ill. (AP)—Steve Stricker's third straight victory in the John Deere Classic certainly was the most challenging—and by far the most dramatic.

With nine holes to play, Stricker led by five strokes. With two holes left, he was two shots down.

Twice, Stricker buried shots deep in bunkers, one so far under the sand he had a hard time finding the ball. At a third bunker, he had to take an awkward stance just to give himself a chance to swing.

But he won nevertheless, sinking a 25-foot putt from off the 18th green Sunday to beat rookie Kyle Stanley by one stroke.

"It became hard, real hard," said Stricker, who was grateful for the encouraging words from caddie Jimmy Johnson.

"Jimmy was right there telling me the whole time, you know, it's not over yet, just keep plugging, you never know what's going to happen," Stricker said. "And sure enough, he was right. Just play it all the way out and see what happens."

Stricker's clutch putt capped a roller coaster round on a steamy afternoon and gave him a 2-under par 69, good enough to make him the 10th golfer since World War II to win a tournament three straight times.

Despite a double-bogey on No. 5, when he needed two shots to get out of a greenside bunker, and bogeys on 15 and 16, Stricker finished at 22-under 262. Stanley, 23, whose best finish previously had been a tie for 12th at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in late March, closed with a 66.

"It was an unbelievable week and an unbelievable finish," Stricker said. "I still can't believe I'm sitting here."

Matt McQuillan, who had missed the cut in his previous 10 tournaments, shot a 64 to tie Zach Johnson (65) for third at 17 under. Charles Howell III (64) and Chez Reavie (72) were another stroke back.

Stanley zoomed in front with birdies on five of the first six holes on the back nine, and kept the lead by salvaging par on 17 after sending his tee shot into a grove of trees. But he missed a 9-foot par putt on 18 to open the door for Stricker, who took advantage.

Stricker had fallen two behind with those back-to-back bogeys, which seemingly ended his hopes of a threepeat.

"I really did feel like the momentum was gone for a while," he said. "Those holes kind of derailed me there."

But he regrouped quickly. Stricker knocked in a 15-foot putt for birdie on 17 to cut Stanley's lead to one stroke, then made what turned out to be a tournament-saving shot from a bunker on the left side of the fairway on 18.

Standing with his left foot in the bunker and his right foot on the lip, Stricker hit the ball solidly and left it on the fringe of the green behind the pin, drawing a huge roar from the crowd.

The next roar was even louder. Using his putter, Stricker sent the ball toward the cup and watched it curl in from the left side. The 44-year-old from Madison, Wis., a crowd favorite at this tournament, backed away as the ball neared the hole, then raised his arms and pumped his fist to celebrate the moment.

AP

Steve Stricker holds the trophy after winning the John Deere Classic golf tournament at TPC Deere Run Sunday, July 10, 2011, in Silvis, Ill.

"It's weird," Stricker said. "When I get into a situation where I have to make a putt, I feel like my nerves kind of go away and I focus extremely hard on trying to make that putt. And that's kind of like the little zone I got into on 17 and 18, I guess."

With the victory, Stricker joined a small but noteworthy group of golfers who have won a tournament three years running. The list reads like a Who's Who's of the game and includes Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Ben Hogan and Johnny Miller.

Woods has done it six times and Palmer twice.

"I kept telling myself that it's not a big deal and it really wasn't—until today," Stricker said. "That back nine trying to win, it's just really hard. I don't know any other way to say it. It's extremely hard to put it away.

"When you watch guys like Tiger put away all those tournaments, anybody who's put it away down the stretch, it's a difficult thing to do. But I'm happy to come out on top. I made a couple of putts when I had to."

Woods also is one of just four golfers who has won a tournament four straight years. The way Stricker has mastered the TPC Deere Run course, you can't discount his chances of joining that group, too.

Stricker finished 26 under at last year's tournament and was 20 under in his 2009 victory.

So, was he ready talk about four in a row.

"No," Stricker said with a smile.

Stanley claimed a nice consolation prize, earning the spot in the British Open that goes to the highest finisher in this tournament who's not already qualified. But if it hadn't been for Stricker's late heroics, Stanley would have had his first victory on the tour.

"I'm very excited to go over there," he said. "But I'm still trying to calm down from that round."

Stanley trailed by five strokes after Stricker buried a 50-foot birdie putt on No. 9. But showing the poise of a tour veteran, he went on his birdie run to take the lead, making a 26-foot birdie putt on 13, an 18-footer on 14 and a 36-footer on 15 to go up by a stroke.

"I just kept giving myself good looks and putts that I did in practice rounds and putts that I knew what they were going to do," he said. "I just kept trying to make birdies and give myself opportunities."

After his par save on 17, Stanley got into trouble on 18 when he went from the rough to a greenside bunker. He was in good position to salvage par again when he chipped up to 9 feet, but he missed the putt and took bogey, giving Stricker the opportunity he needed.

Stricker won for the second time this year and 11th time in his career, with eight of those victories coming after he turned 40. He won the Memorial a month ago and now has multiple wins in three consecutive years.

Only four others have done that since 2000: Woods, Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh and Ernie Els.

Bad throws help Yankees edge Rays

NEW YORK (AP)—Bad throwing errors gifted New York the only run of the game as the Yankees edged the Tampa Bay Rays 1-0 in the American League on Sunday.

Tampa Bay's James Shields (8-7) and New York's C.C. Sabathia (13-4) staged a classic pitchers' duel, matching zeros until the bottom of the seventh inning.

Angels 4, Mariners 2

In Anaheim, Alberto Callaspo hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning to lift Los Angeles over Seattle.

Angels starter Dan Haren (10-5) and Felix Hernandez dueled through the first seven innings, before Callaspo drove a two-out pitch from David Pauley (5-3) into the gap, scoring two runners.

Blue Jays 7, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Jose Bautista hit a two-run double to help Toronto defeat Cleveland and head to the All-Star break with a three-game winning streak.

Toronto moved within two games of .500 and sent Bautista to the All-Star game as baseball's home run leader with 31, along with 65 RBIs and a .334 average.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 6

In Boston, Marco Scutaro, Dustin Pedroia and Kevin Youkilis all homered in the second inning, setting up Boston's victory over Baltimore and its sixth consecutive win.

The Red Sox completed a four-game sweep and stayed one game ahead of the Yankees in the AL East; the sixth time in seven seasons that Boston has led the division at the All-Star break.

Rangers 2, Athletics 0

In Arlington, Texas, Matt Harrison pitched scorelessly into the eighth inning to guide Texas past Oakland and to a season-best seventh consecutive win.

Harrison (7-7) struck out seven and walked one in 7 2-3 innings.

Tigers 2, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Justin Verlander became the first Tigers pitcher to earn his 12th win before the All-Star break in 24 years as Detroit edged Kansas City and took over the lead in the AL Central.

Verlander (12-4) pitched 7 2-3 strong innings in sweltering heat to match Jack Morris' win total in 1987. Striking out the side in the second and sixth, he fanned nine altogether while raising his league-leading strikeout total to 147. He gave up only one unearned run.

Twins 6, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Anthony Swarzak dominated over six innings guiding Minnesota past Chicago, claiming three out of four games in the series.

An RBI single by Drew Butera and run-scoring double by Jason Repko in the fourth put the Twins ahead before they tacked on three more while knocking out Jake Peavy (4-3) in the fifth.

Phillies 14, Braves 1

In Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Phillies piled on a season-best 20 hits to rout the Atlanta Braves, taking two out of three in the series between the National League's top two teams.

Raul Ibanez homered and drove in six runs while John Mayberry Jr. had three doubles and a career-best four RBIs for the Phillies.

Giants 4, Mets 2

In San Francisco, the hosts beat New York to increase their lead in the NL West to three games, heading into the All-Star break as divisional leaders for the first time in eight years.

Pablo Sandoval celebrated his first All-Star game selection by hitting an RBI double to extend his hitting streak to 21 games, while Nate Schierholtz added four hits and an RBI.

Cardinals 4, Diamondbacks 2

In St. Louis, the hosts downed Arizona to split the four game series.

Cardinals starter Jaime Garcia (9-3) gave up two runs in six innings. He has a 6-1 record with a 1.14 ERA in nine home starts.

Brewers 4, Reds 3

In Milwaukee, the home team pounced on Cincinnati closer Francisco Cordero, rallying in the ninth.

Mark Kotsay tied it 3-3 with an RBI single, scoring Nyjer Morgan. With the bases loaded and one out, Craig Counsell delivered a game-ending sacrifice fly.

Nationals 2, Rockies 0

In Washington, Jordan Zimmermann took a shutout into the seventh inning to guide Washington past Colorado.

Zimmermann (6-7) went 6 1-3 innings, and was nearly matched by Colorado's Jhoulys Chacin (8-7), who gave up one run in seven innings.

Pirates 9, Cubs 1

In Pittsburgh, the hosts comfortably beat Chicago and will go the mid-season break with their best record for 19 years.

Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run homer and two sacrifice flies. Neil Walker went 3 for 4, and Alex Presley had two hits and scored two runs for Pittsburgh.

Dodgers 4, Padres 1

In Los Angeles, Andre Ethier homered twice as Los Angeles took a season-high fourth straight victory, defeating San Diego.

Dodgers starter Ted Lilly (6-9) allowed one run over five innings, striking out seven to take his first win in a month.

Marlins 5, Astros 4

In Miami, Mike Cameron belted a tying two-run homer for his first hit since joining the Marlins as Florida completed a four-game sweep of Houston.

Florida's Emilio Bonifacio had three hits, extending his career-best hitting streak to 12 games. He stole three bases and scored twice.

Pacific Games Council forms disputes tribunal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Pacific Games Council has created a disputes tribunal to handle protest or legal issues that may occur during the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia next month.

According to the council's website, the group has six members with New Zealand's Tim Castle named as its chairman. Other members include PGC secretary general David Boyd of New Caledonia, Tonga Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee president Lord Tevita Tupou, Cook Islands Sports and National Olympic Committee president Sir Geoffrey Henry, Guam National Olympic Committee secretary general Robert Steffy, and Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee CEO and secretary general Lorraine Mar.

Castle is a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and took part in the redrafting of constitutional protocols for the Pacific Games Council, including eligibility rules and regulations. In 1991, he became the first official from Oceania to be appointed to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Switzerland-based CAS is the world's sports disputes adjudication body.

"Tim's work in sports and sports law is known and recognized internationally, and we very much welcome his appointment for our Pacific Games this year," PGC executive director Andrew Minogue said in a press released posted at the Council website.

The creation of the dispute tribunal is crucial to ensure fairness and resolution of protests in the Pacific Games, particularly those concerning athletes' eligibility.

In the revised Pacific Games Charter (August 2010), respective international federations' rules are applied and only citizens and residents of the countries/territories the athletes are representing are allowed. A citizen means a passport holder of that country, while a resident must have resided in that nation for at least five years (cumulative, whether consecutive or not).

The council also adopted a new provision on eligibility rules during its general assembly in New Caledonia last year, giving the PGC Executive Board discretion to waive the written eligibility rules (the citizenship and residency requirements) for any reason whatsoever. However, request for a waiver and supporting documents should have been turned in to the board last March or six months before the Pacific Games start.

The quadrennial competition will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10 with 22 nations competing in 27 sports. So far, over 4,000 athletes have registered to join the 15-day event.

Futsal league's team captains meeting Friday

The 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League will have a team captains meeting this Friday at 5:15pm at the TSL Sports Complex.

The league will open on July 18 and so far seven teams each in the men's and women's divisions have already confirmed their participation in the futsal competition. Registration is on-going at $10 per player and deadline is set for tomorrow.

The inaugural Saipan Soccer School futsal league will have a double-round robin format and games will be played every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, starting at 5:30pm. Players will get the chance to play an indoor 5-a-side football. Expected to see actions in this fast-paced, fun and skill-oriented game are the regular football players from the regular men and women's leagues and some strikers from youth leagues.

For more information, contact league commissioner Mae Ito at 235-8747 ext 148 or 287-3607. ***(PR)***

CNMI

From Page 28

nesia, 11-0, in four innings to close out the day. There are six teams in Pool A so teams do not receive byes.

New Zealand kicks off Pool A's Day 4 against Singapore at 9am today, followed by Taiwan against Thailand at 11:30am. Pool A closes today with Indonesia squaring off against Australia at 1:30pm.

Hong Kong 8, CNMI 5

The CNMI managed a couple runners in the top of the first, but left them stranded at first and second base.

Hong Kong broke the ice with two runs off three hits and an error in the bottom frame. Hong Kong's Taiga Hayakawa and Alex Chan each ripped doubles before the CNMI escaped the inning with the bases loaded.

It was another rocky start for the CNMI, which was forced to make an early pitching change. Erik Cruz took the ball to start the match, but was pulled just five batters later and relieved by Juan Quitugua. The latter closed the inning, but Hong Kong continued to inflict damage in the ensuing innings.

The CNMI went 1-2-3 after a lead-off walk to start the second and Hong Kong pulled ahead, 5-0, off two hits a walk and an error in the bottom frame.

Then the CNMI drew another blank in the third and Hong Kong added three more runs off three walks and two hits in the bottom half of the inning.

Sensing time was running out, the CNMI woke up in the fourth, but left runners on the corners.

The CNMI's Craig Aguon stepped to the rubber in the fourth inning and left Hong Kong with runners at second and third base.

The CNMI then mustered a five-run rally off four hits and an error in the top of the fifth.

Franco Nakamura led off with a walk and was driven home off a triple by Aguon. Rokie Tenorio singled in Aguon an out later and Quitugua bashed a triple to keep the streak alive and scored himself off an error. Jonathan Camacho also reached and scored off errors.

Hong Kong went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame, but hung tough and squeezed the last three outs.

Early in the game, Hong Kong's Chihiro Karoki held the CNMI scoreless for the first four frames before the CNMI found a spark after he maxed out in the pitch-count.

At the plate, Hong Kong's Sora Fukazawa batted 2-for-2 with an RBI and two runs in the ninth spot and Taiga Hayakawa went 2-for-3 with an RBI and two runs.

The CNMI's Tenorio batted 3-for-3 with an RBI and a run; the rest of the CNMI crew was held to just two hits. Tenorio continues to lead the CNMI's offense, batting 6-for-8 for two RBIs and three runs.

REZNE

From Page 28

ming Federation officials and Saipan Swim Club's Grace Kimball and Victoria Chentsova. The two-time NMASA Male Athlete of the Year awardee will compete in the 200m individual medley and 200m breaststroke events in the world championships.

"I just want to drop decent times and swim all out. It's been hard this year for me with school and swimming, and I will be pleased with just small improvements. Shanghai will be pretty different. It will be like going back five to 10 years due to the banning of the technical, full body polyurethane suits. In other words, less world records and slower swims," the Marianas High School graduate said.

"But as for me, I have improved my times this year without a fast suit, so my confidence is higher whenever I race. I also want to race and make the U.S. national cut for the 200m breaststroke, which is at 2:23.29, and my personal best is at 2:24.94. The 200 IM is also just more than three seconds away, (2:08.59) and my personal best is at 2:11.89. When I finish each race I will make sure that I gave it my all, and that, is the feeling ever true swimmer should have," he added.

After the tournament in Shanghai, Wong will return to Saipan, but will only stay here for five days, as he will head next to Shenzhen for the 2011 Summer Universiade or FISU's World University Games. The FISU (International University Sports Federation) event will run from Aug. 12 to 23 and Wong, fellow athlete Matt Mancao, and NMASA president Michael White are leaving Saipan on Aug. 5.

Wong is also entered in the 200m IM and 200m breaststroke races in Shenzhen.

"The tournament in Shenzhen includes the top two swimmers of every country who are in college or university, so not as fast as the world championships but definitely very competitive," Wong said.

PACIFIC

From Page 28

lies in the ensuing plays for a big 6-1 victory. In the second set, Nott opened up with a 2-0 advantage, but Khaledan recovered and equalized. It was a nip-and-tuck game from thereon with Nott still prevailing, 6-4, to move a set away from ending the match. In the third set, the long-rally game again favored Nott, who won five straight games en route to a 6-2 triumph.

In the second singles match last Friday, the Solomon Island's Michael Leong was pitted against Rouzbeh Kamran and the former got off to a bad start, allowing the Iranian to take a commanding 5-1 lead before rain halted the play. Kamran went on to win the first set when game resumed, 6-1, but Leong swept the last three to give Pacific Oceania a 2-0 lead after Day 1 of the tournament. After losing points to Kamran's winners in the first set, the much-fitter Leong moved well around the court to catch the Iranian flatfooted and win the last three sets, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Day 2 of the competition had scheduled only a doubles match between the pairs of Vanuatu's Cyril Jacobe and Guam's Daniel Llarenas and Iran's Ashkan Shokoofi and Seyed Taheri. Like their singles players, Shokoofi and Taheri hold ITF rankings, but the unranked Jacobe and Llarenas also pulled off an upset over the Iranian duo, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

The doubles win last Saturday secured Pacific Oceania a spot in Group 2, which also has Korea, Thailand, Syria, Indonesia, and Pakistan. With the Islanders keeping their slot in Group 2, they will now wait for the draw in October to determine their first round foe for 2012.

Iran dropped to Group 3 and won only one game, courtesy of Khaledan's 6-4, 6-4 victory against Jacobe in the reverse singles match last Sunday. Nott took his second singles triumph when he topped Kamran in the other reverse singles duel, 6-3, 6-4. The 4-1 win over Iran was the best result Pacific Oceania recorded in Group 2.

Meanwhile, Pacific Oceania dedicated its victory to former Guam National Tennis Federation president Bill Camacho, who passed away in March this year after Guam hosted the first round tie with the Islanders losing to Thailand, 0-5.

IGITOL

From Page 28

dence and Guam Baseball Federation's Robert Steffy, who nominated her.

"With 22 years of baseball administration under my belt, I feel I can represent the people of the CNMI and the north well and carry out the mandates of this organization," she said.

BCO is the governing body of baseball in the Oceania region and has 13 other member-nations besides the CNMI. The list also includes Guam, American Samoa, Cook Islands, the Federates States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Samoa.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	55	35	.611	–
New York	53	35	.602	1
Tampa Bay	49	41	.544	6
Toronto	45	47	.489	11
Baltimore	36	52	.409	18

Central Division

Detroit	49	43	.533	–
Cleveland	47	42	.528	1/2
Chicago	44	48	.478	5
Minnesota	41	48	.461	6 1/2
Kansas City	37	54	.407	11 1/2

West Division

Texas	51	41	.554	–
Los Angeles	50	42	.543	1
Seattle	43	48	.473	7 1/2
Oakland	39	53	.424	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	57	34	.626	–
Atlanta	54	38	.587	3 1/2
New York	46	45	.505	11
Washington	46	46	.500	11 1/2
Florida	43	48	.473	14

Central Division

Milwaukee	49	43	.533	–
St. Louis	49	43	.533	–
Pittsburgh	47	43	.522	1
Cincinnati	45	47	.489	4
Chicago	37	55	.402	12
Houston	30	62	.326	19

West Division

San Francisco	52	40	.565	–
Arizona	49	43	.533	3
Colorado	43	48	.473	8 1/2
Los Angeles	41	51	.446	11
San Diego	40	52	.435	12

Yesterday's Games

Florida 5, Houston 4
Philadelphia 14, Atlanta 1
Pittsburgh 9, Chicago Cubs 1
Washington 2, Colorado 0
Milwaukee 4, Cincinnati 3
St. Louis 4, Arizona 2
L.A. Dodgers 4, San Diego 1
San Francisco 4, N.Y. Mets 2
N.Y. Yankees 1, Tampa Bay 0
Toronto 7, Cleveland 1
Boston 8, Baltimore 6
Detroit 2, Kansas City 1
Minnesota 6, Chicago White Sox 3
Texas 2, Oakland 0
L.A. Angels 4, Seattle 2

JOHN DEERE CLASSIC SCORES

SILVIS, Illinois (AP)—Scores Sunday from the John Deere Classic, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,268-yard, par-71 TPC Deere Run course:

FINAL ROUND

Steve Stricker (500), $810,000	66-64-63-69—262
Kyle Stanley (300), $486,000	65-67-65-66—263
Matt McQuillan (163), $261,000	64-69-70-64—267
Zach Johnson (163), $261,000	66-69-67-65—267
Charles Howell III (105), $171,000	66-68-70-64—268
Chez Reavie (105), $171,000	66-62-68-72—268
Cameron Percy (88), $145,125	66-67-67-69—269
Brendon de Jonge (88), $145,125	66-66-63-74—269
Briny Baird (75), $121,500	68-70-68-64—270
Brian Gay (75), $121,500	68-67-69-66—270
Cameron Tringale (75), $121,500	70-66-65-69—270
Sunghoon Kang (58), $85,500	72-65-68-66—271
Michael Putnam (58), $85,500	70-68-67-66—271
Kris Blanks (58), $85,500	63-71-70-67—271
Michael Thompson (58), $85,500	71-66-67-67—271
Davis Love III (58), $85,500	64-70-69-68—271
Aron Price (58), $85,500	69-66-67-69—271
Arjun Atwal (52), $60,750	67-66-70-69—272
Marco Dawson (52), $60,750	68-69-66-69—272
Charles Warren (52), $60,750	67-68-67-70—272
Dean Wilson (52), $60,750	69-65-67-71—272
Chris Kirk (46), $39,488	68-69-70-66—273
Kirk Triplett (46), $39,488	68-65-73-67—273
Andres Gonzales (46), $39,488	68-68-69-68—273
Brett Wetterich (46), $39,488	69-68-67-69—273
Michael Letzig (46), $39,488	70-65-68-70—273
Scott Stallings (46), $39,488	69-66-68-70—273
Todd Hamilton (46), $39,488	70-66-67-70—273
David Mathis (46), $39,488	68-65-69-71—273
Tim Petrovic (38), $26,156	69-69-69-67—274
Jason Bohn (38), $26,156	72-66-68-68—274
Troy Merritt (38), $26,156	68-68-69-69—274
Chris Couch (38), $26,156	70-65-69-70—274
Bryce Molder (38), $26,156	71-66-67-70—274
Woody Austin (38), $26,156	69-67-67-71—274
Will MacKenzie (38), $26,156	67-70-66-71—274
Mark Wilson (38), $26,156	65-67-68-74—274
Steven Bowditch (30), $18,450	67-68-72-68—275
Kent Jones (30), $18,450	70-68-69-68—275
Heath Slocum (30), $18,450	70-66-70-69—275
Ben Martin (30), $18,450	67-70-68-70—275
Jim Herman (30), $18,450	66-68-70-71—275
D.A. Points (30), $18,450	66-68-70-71—275
Shane Bertsch (30), $18,450	71-66-67-71—275
D.J. Trahan (21), $11,864	67-70-74-65—276
Alex Prugh (21), $11,864	69-68-72-67—276
Rod Pampling (21), $11,864	69-69-70-68—276
Frank Lickliter II (21), $11,864	68-70-69-69—276
Josh Teater (21), $11,864	66-70-70-70—276
Scott Piercy (21), $11,864	70-67-69-70—276
Craig Bowden (21), $11,864	67-70-69-70—276
John Mallinger (21), $11,864	68-65-70-73—276
Lee Janzen (21), $11,864	66-68-69-73—276
Cameron Beckman (21), $11,864	66-69-68-73—276
Brian Davis (21), $11,864	70-66-67-73—276
Chad Campbell (14), $10,170	67-69-70-71—277
Billy Mayfair (14), $10,170	67-66-72-72—277
J.J. Henry (14), $10,170	68-68-69-72—277
John Merrick (12), $9,990	67-71-67-73—278
Michael Connell (9), $9,720	69-66-73-71—279
James Driscoll (9), $9,720	71-67-70-71—279
Joe Ogilvie (9), $9,720	69-67-71-72—279
William McGirt (9), $9,720	67-67-71-74—279
Nathan Green (9), $9,720	69-64-69-77—279
Michael Sim (5), $9,360	67-70-70-74—281
John Rollins (5), $9,360	72-65-69-75—281
Steve Marino (5), $9,360	64-66-73-78—281
Jason Day (2), $9,090	67-69-75-71—282
Jhonattan Vegas (2), $9,090	68-64-75-75—282
David Hearn (2), $9,090	67-69-71-75—282
Chris Stroud (1), $8,865	69-64-76-74—283
Troy Matteson (1), $8,865	67-69-72-75—283
Duffy Waldorf (1), $8,730	67-69-73-76—285

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4th Miller Lite League Awards Presentation

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Armatech's Yosh Gabaldon, center, receives the Finals MVP trophy during the awards ceremony for the 4th Miller Lite Invitational Friendship Basketball League. Joining him in the photo are organizer Sonny Ebuen, left, and Pacific Trading, Co.'s Ray Borja.

Armatech players and supporters pose for a group photo after beating Soul Jazz in the finals.

Soul Jazz's Freddie Pelisamen gets the scoring champion award.

Soul Jazz players pose with their runner-up trophy.

Cargo Express-Seabridge's Lerio Pagarao holds the regular season MVP trophy.

Lerio Pagarao, second left, and Dante Olivos, second right, receive the fourth place and pennant trophies for Cargo Express-Seabridge.

Armatech's Bruce Berline, left, and Elmer Esdrelon, second from left, lead the Mythical Five selection. Also making it to the elite group, but failed to attend the awards ceremony were World Resort's Banjo Basila and Dennis Vinas and Soul Jazz's Gyles Ruluked.

A World Resort player gets their third place trophy.

Armatech's Peter Crisostomo receives the Best Coach award.

Soul Jazz's Ziddy Johanes gets the Best in Assists trophy.

Wambach, Solo key riveting US win over Brazil

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Stricker wins Deere Classic for 3rd straight year

PAGE 25

CNMI All-Stars bow to HK

» Set up must-win game vs Guam

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

GUAM—Hong Kong defeated the CNMI Major All-Stars, 8-5, in yesterday's Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament held at Guam's Northern Region Sports Complex.

The CNMI dropped to a 1-2 win-loss slate, but still has a chance to advance to Thursday's playoff round if it can overcome Guam in convincing fashion tomorrow. The CNMI has a bye today in Pool B.

The win was Hong Kong's first in three tries.

In the other Pool B game, unbeaten Korea edged Guam, 4-3, yesterday and remains in the driver seat at 2-0 with two games to go to complete its round robin assignments.

Korea faces Hong Kong today at 11:30am, while Guam takes on the Philippines in the 8:30am opener. After three days, the CNMI and Hong Kong share identical 1-2 records, while the Philippines and Guam hold an even 1-1 card—making it a wide open race for the second playoff berth.

The Philippines defeated Hong Kong, 6-5, in Sunday's matchup and not the other way around as reported in yesterday's issue of the *Saipan Tribune*.

The Top 2 teams in each pool advance to Thursday's playoff round where the top seed of one pool takes on the second place team of the other. The championship and consolation matches will be held on Friday followed by the closing ceremony.

In Pool A, defending champions Chinese-Taipei stretched its unbeaten streak to three with a 20-5 spanking of Singapore and is a virtual lock for a playoff spot.

Despite the loss, Singapore is still tied for second place with Thailand, which was upset by Australia (1-2), 11-4, in yesterday's opener. Both squads hold a pair of wins and one defeat on their cards.

In addition, New Zealand (1-2) brushed off winless Indo-

See **CNMI** on **Page 26**

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The CNMI All-Stars' Rokie Tenorio eyes a pitch in their game against Hong Kong yesterday in Day 3 of the 2011 Major League Asia-Pacific Tournament at the Northern Region Sports Complex in Guam.

WWW.OCEANIATENNIS.COM

Members of Pacific Oceania Team pose for a photo after beating Iran, 4-1, in the 2011 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group 2 Tie over the weekend at the Guam Resort & Spa Tennis Club in Guam.

Pacific Oceania stuns Iran in Davis Cup tie

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Oceania nearly swept Iran in their relegation tie over the weekend at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa Tennis Club in Guam to remain in Group 2 of the BNP Paribas Davis Cup Asia/Oceania.

The Cyrille Mainguy-captained Pacific Oceania secured the win as early as Saturday when the team won the first two singles matches and one doubles, according to Oceania Tennis Federation website. Then last Sunday, Pacific Oceania split the two reverse singles games for a 4-1 victory that saved the team from dropping to Group 3.

The Marshall Islands' West Nott gave the Islanders their first triumph after sweeping Iran's No. 1 player Shahin Khaledan in straight sets.

After taking a slim 2-1 lead in the opening set, Nott outlasted Khaledan in long ral-

See PACIFIC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, seen here competing in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, will represent the CNMI in two tournaments in China.

Rezne upbeat into two off-island tourneys

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Games multiple-medalist Rezne Wong is back on island, but would not stay here for long, as he will be competing in two off-island tournaments this summer.

First up for the University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer is the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China. The world championship will run from July 16 to 31 at the Oriental Sports Center, giving him less than two weeks to train with his mother club—the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan—in preparation for the Shanghai meet.

"I will be on Saipan for only 10 days. I will train with Tsunami Saipan for a few days, but I already had training sessions back in Hawaii under my coach's program," said Wong, who was scheduled to arrive on Saipan yesterday.

Wong will leave for China on July 21 and will be joined by two Northern Marianas Swim-

See REZNE on Page 26

Igitol joins Oceania baseball elite group

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Major League's Rose Igitol has been selected as member of the Baseball Confederation of Oceania Executive Committee.

"On behalf of the BCO Executive Committee and its members, I would like to confirm your appointment to the BCO Executive Committee to the position of executive member. Congratulations and welcome," BCO secretary general Chet Gray said in a letter sent to Igitol yesterday.

Igitol's appointment was effective starting June 22 and the local sports official is honored with the selection.

"It is a great honor to be elected to the BCO Executive Committee," Igitol said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She added that BCO is responsible in coordinating, encouraging, organizing, assisting, and promoting baseball in the region and is recognized by the International Baseball Association (IBAF).

Igitol

"Executive members are tasked in overseeing BCO activities and ensuring that their objectives and policies are adhered to. Being a member will enable me to have first-hand information on educational programs available for coaches, umpires, and administrators, as well as, clinics, tournaments, and championships for our players," Igitol explained.

The SML official thanked the committee for their vote of confi-

See IGITOL on Page 26